

Vince HERNANDEZ | Alex KONAT | Mark ROSLAN | Peter STEIGERWALD | ZEN

# MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM THE CORE



COVER A

#1  
OF 2





Vince HERNANDEZ | Alex KONAT | Mark ROSLAN | Peter STEIGERWALD | ZEN

MICHAEL TURNER'S  
**FATHOM**  
THE **CORE**



COVER A

#**1**  
OF 2



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# MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM THE CORE

ISSUE ONE OF TWO

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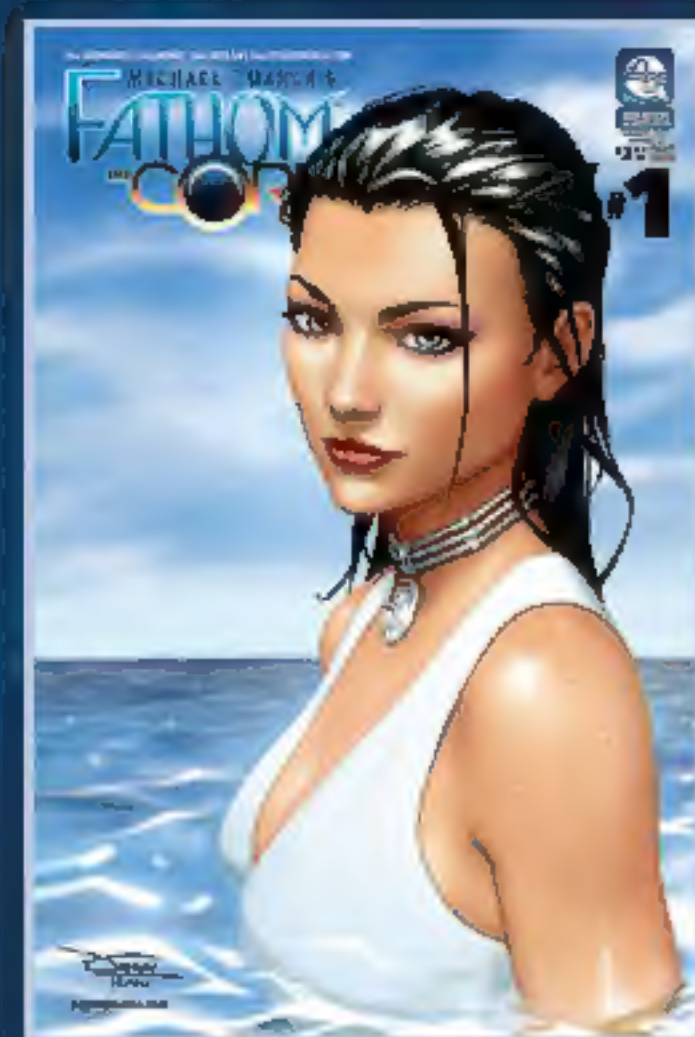
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letters

ZEN



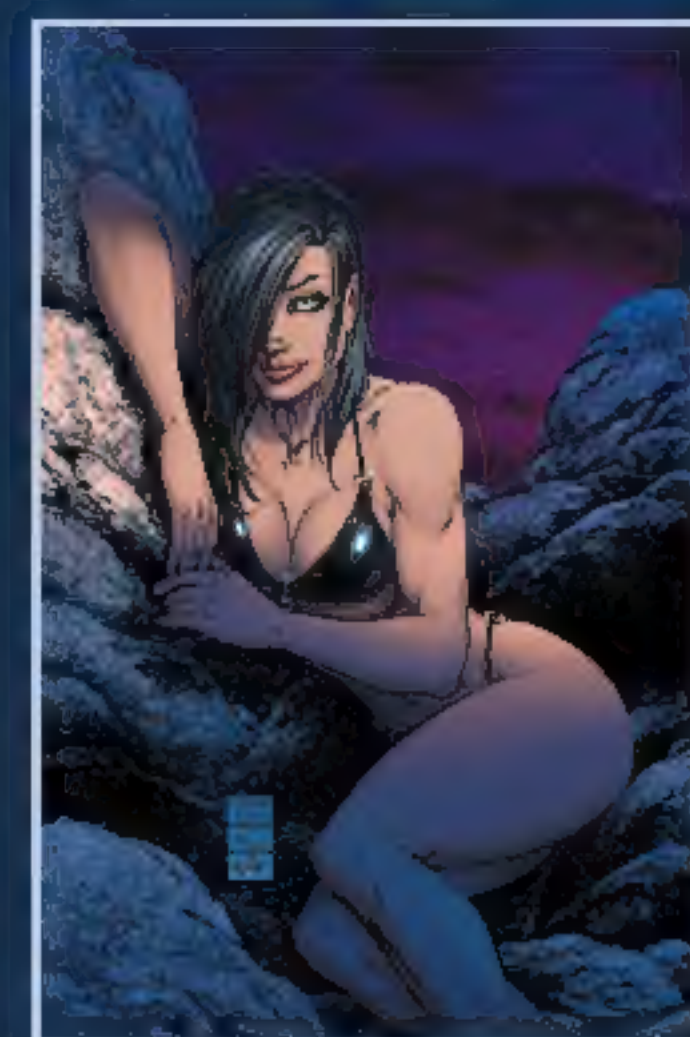
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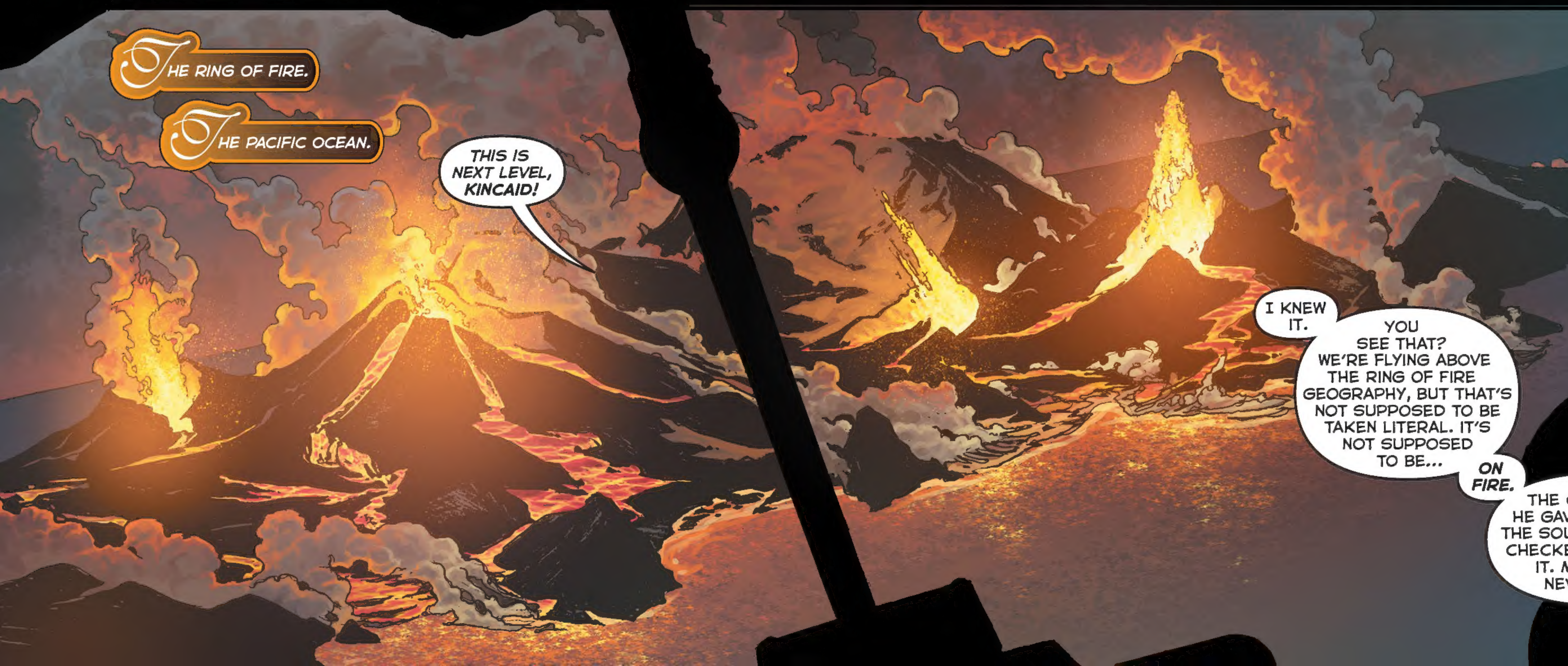


I TOLD YOU SHE'S NOT UP FOR THIS!



OH, COME ON, JAKE. I THOUGHT YOU AIR FORCE FLYBOYS EAT DANGER FOR BREAKFAST?

I GOT A DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS ON MY LAPEL BUT I CAN'T CHANGE ENGINEERING. THE BIRD... SHE'S NOT BUILT FOR THIS...



THE RING OF FIRE.

THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

THIS IS NEXT LEVEL, KINCAID!

I KNEW IT.

YOU SEE THAT? WE'RE FLYING ABOVE THE RING OF FIRE GEOGRAPHY, BUT THAT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE TAKEN LITERAL. IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE...

ON FIRE.

THE COORDINATES HE GAVE. THE EMAILS, THE SOURCES. THEY ALL CHECKED OUT... I KNEW IT. MY INSTINCTS NEVER FAIL ME.



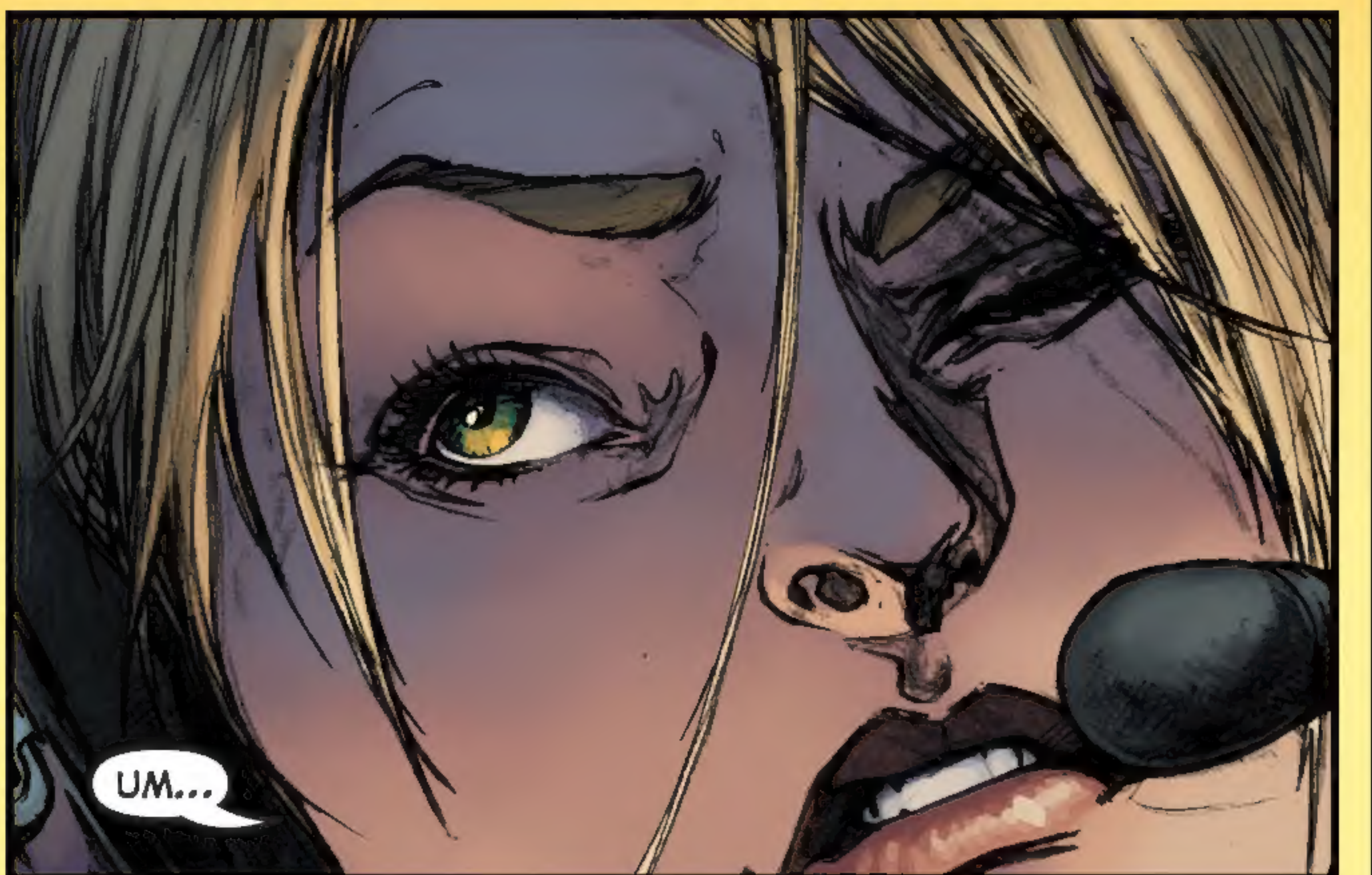




A HEAT  
VAPOR STREAM?  
WHAT DOES  
THAT ME--

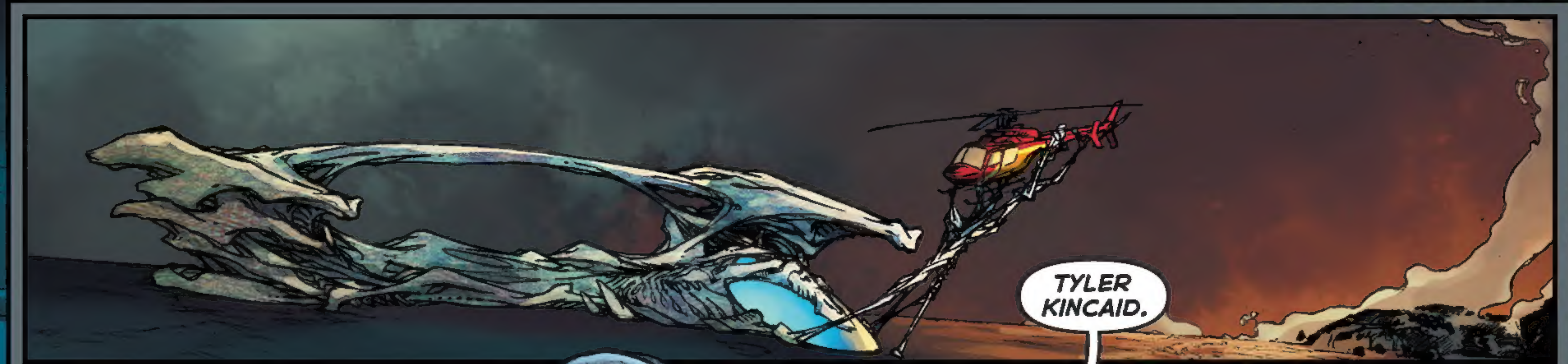


BRACE  
YOURSELF--



UM...





TYLER  
KINCAID.

YOU  
ACTUALLY  
DID IT. YOU READ  
MY WARNINGS, AND  
FOLLOWED MY  
LEAD.



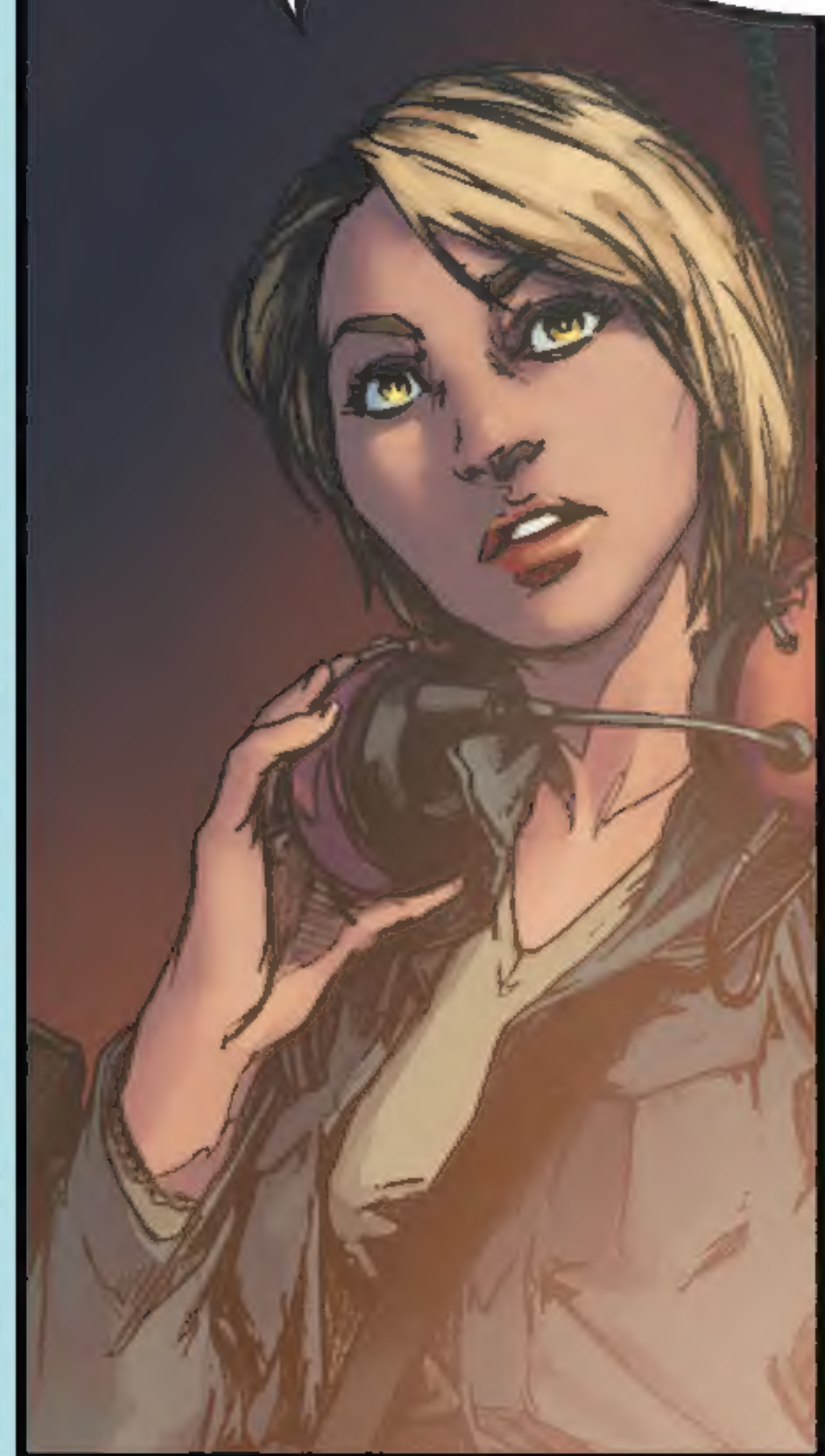
WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN  
**YOUR** LEAD?  
WAIT--

YOU'RE  
THE ALIAS,  
**DOC BLUE?**

IN THE FLESH.  
WAIT, GIMME A SEC  
ON THAT...THERE. I  
IMAGINE YOU HOOLOO'D  
MY FACE AFTER I  
SENT YOU ALL  
THOSE CLUES.

YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
HAVE COME THIS  
CLOSE TO THE ACTION.  
I WANTED YOU TO KNOW  
ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON  
OUT HERE IN THE RING OF  
FIRE IN CASE SOMETHING  
HAPPENED TO **ME**, NOT  
THE OTHER WAY  
AROUND.

YOU'RE  
LUCKY MYSELF AND  
MY BLUE NANO-TECH  
WERE HERE TO SAVE  
YOUR BUTTS.



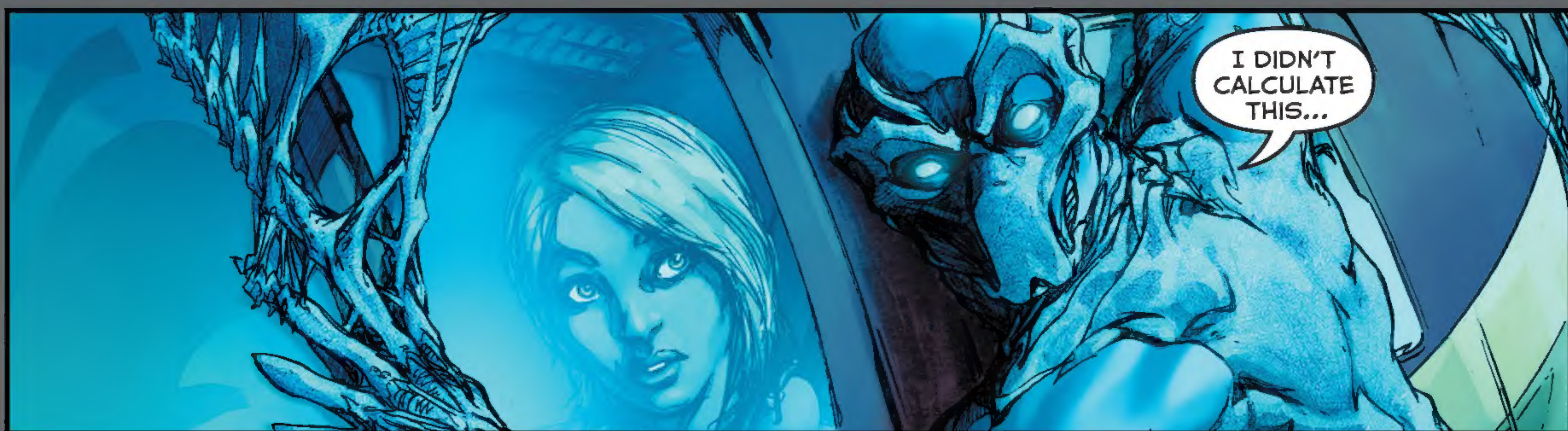
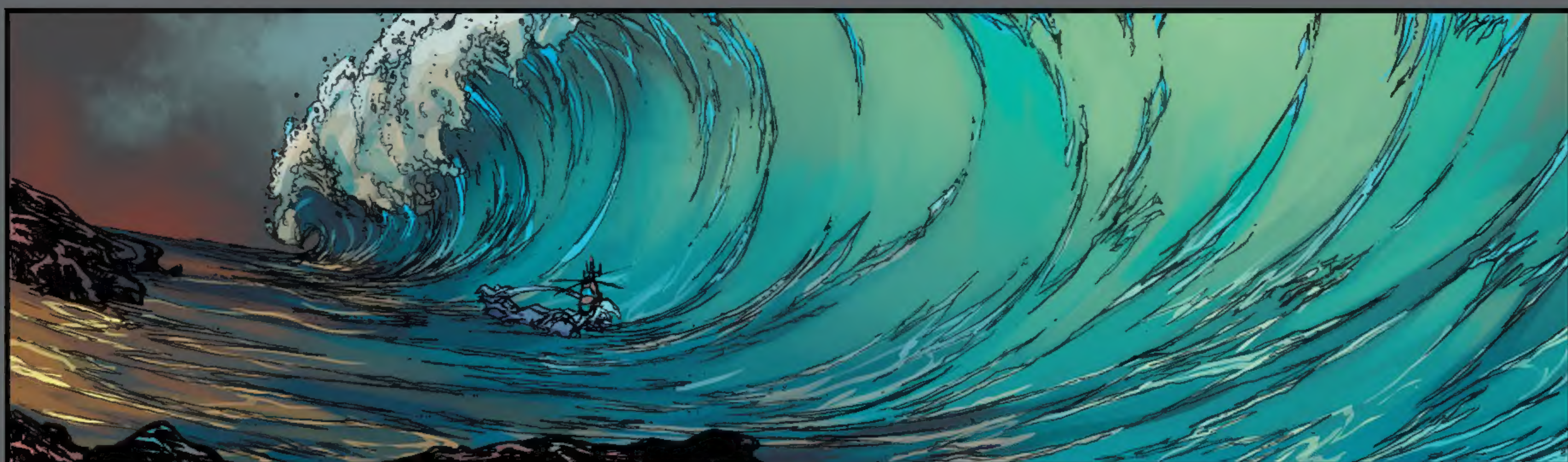
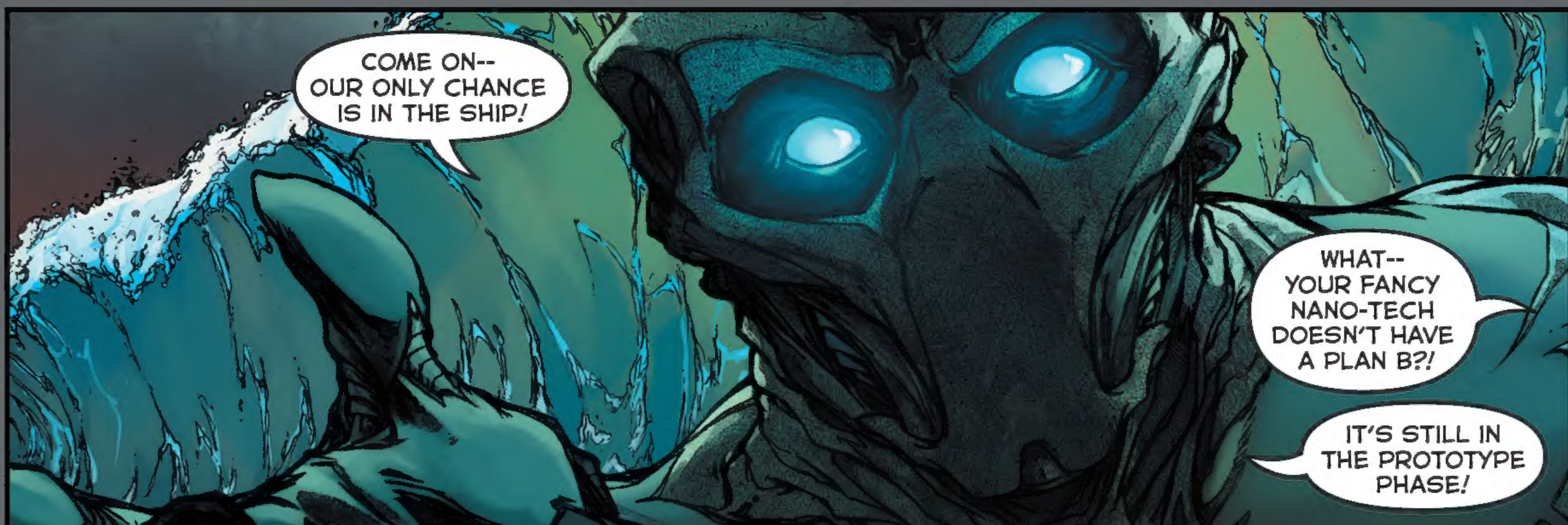
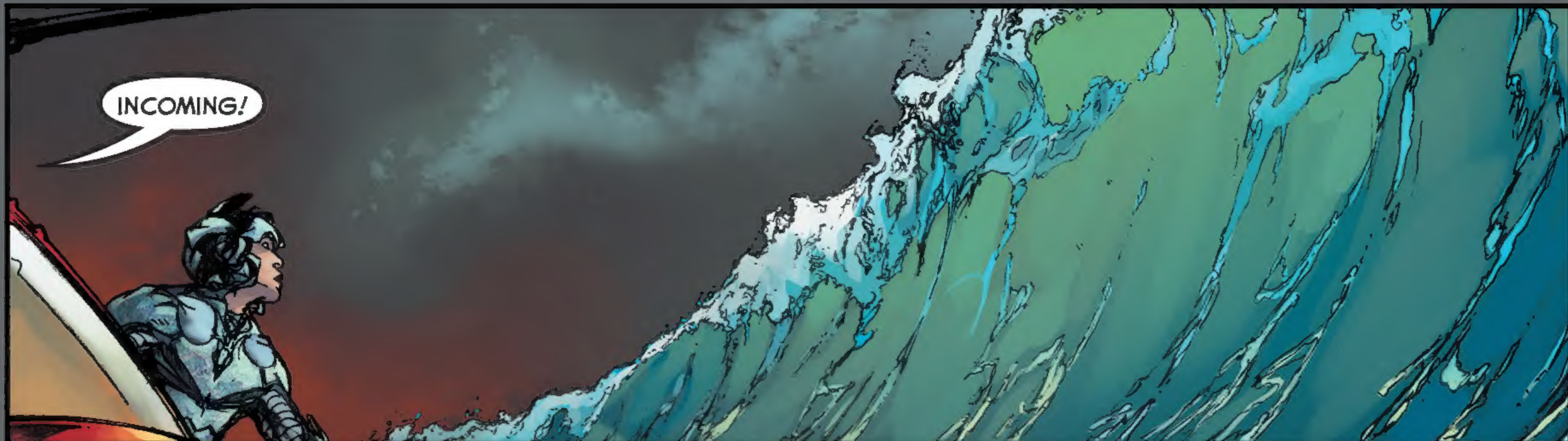
I WOULDN'T  
BE SO SURE  
OF THAT, HOT  
SHOT.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?

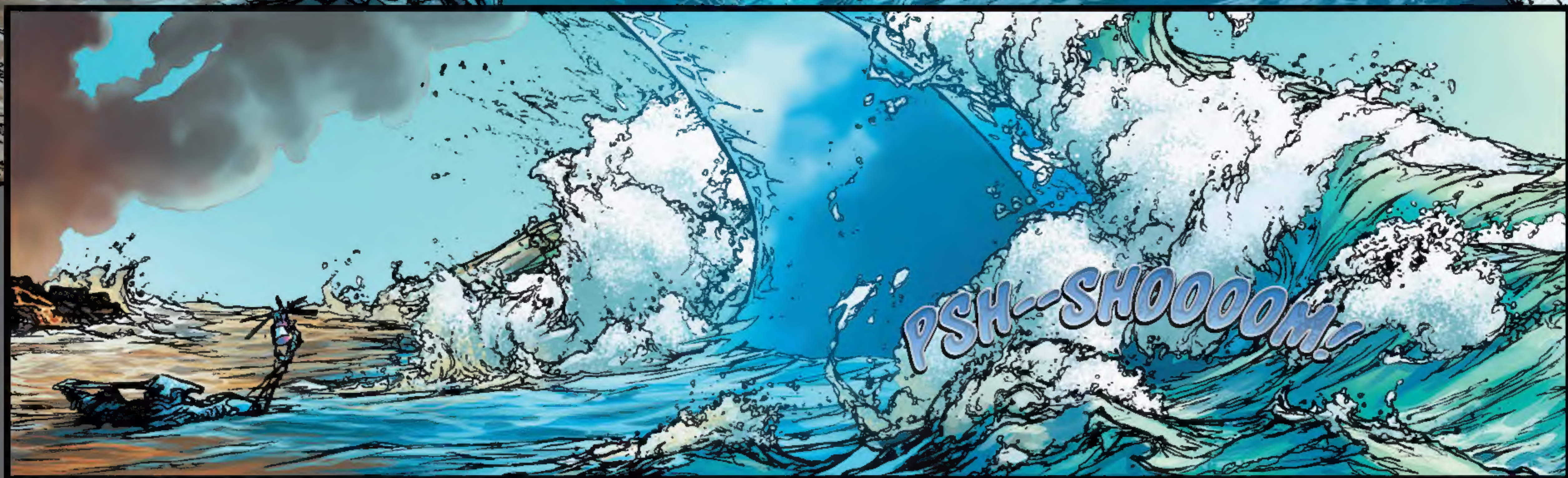


I MEAN--











MEET MY  
FRIEND, **ASPEN  
MATTHEWS**. SHE  
KNOWS A THING  
OR TWO ABOUT  
THAT.







THE OUTSKIRTS OF MURIA,  
CAPITAL CITY OF THE BLUE.



I ONCE THOUGHT MYSELF  
A SAVIOR TO MY PEOPLE...



...PROTECTOR OF  
OUR DOMAIN...



COMMANDER OF THE  
BLUE'S FINEST...

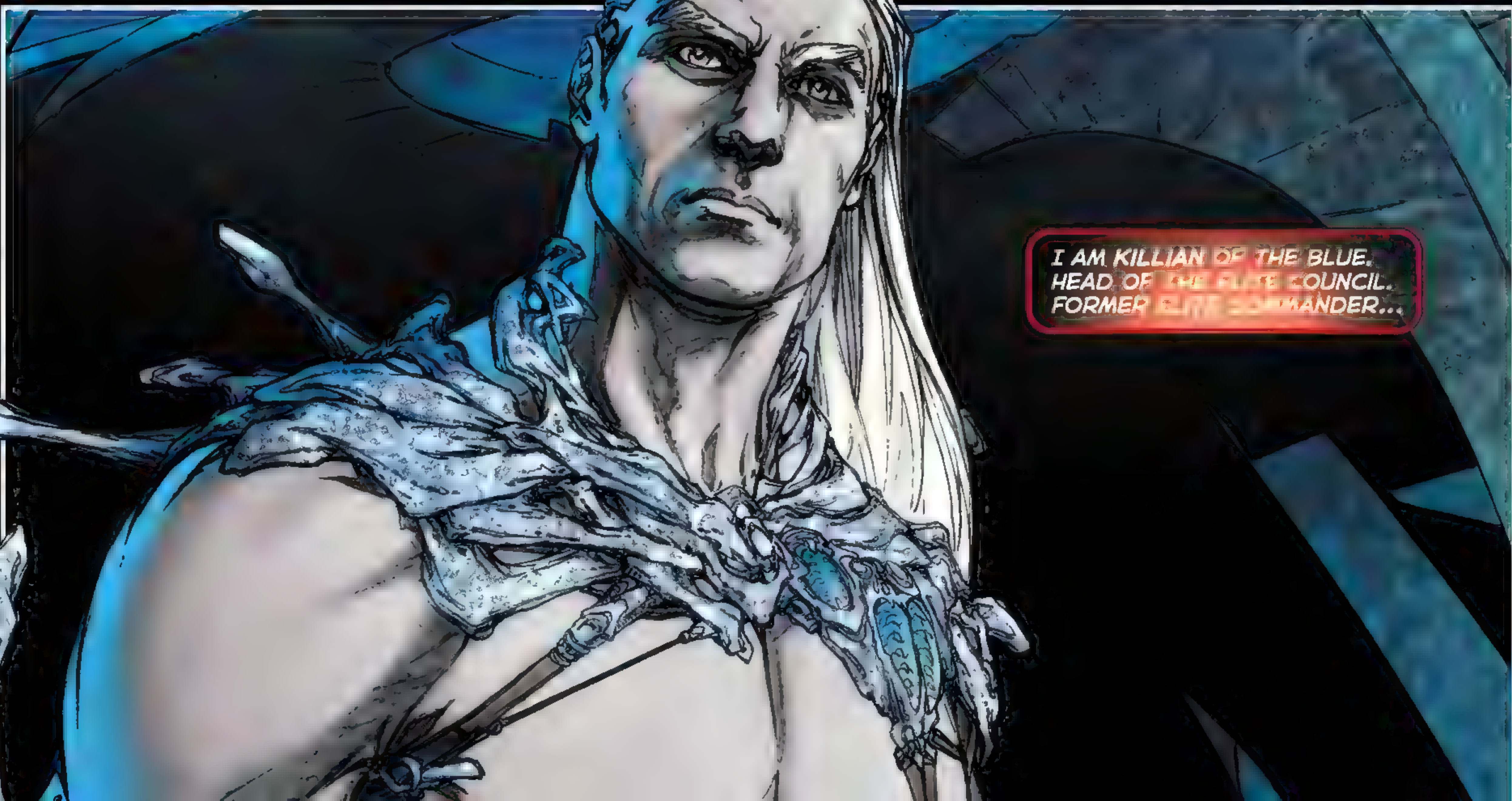


...OUR FIRST LINE  
OF DEFENSE.





I WAS  
WRONG.



I AM KILLIAN OF THE BLUE,  
HEAD OF THE ELITE COUNCIL.  
FORMER ELITE COMMANDER...



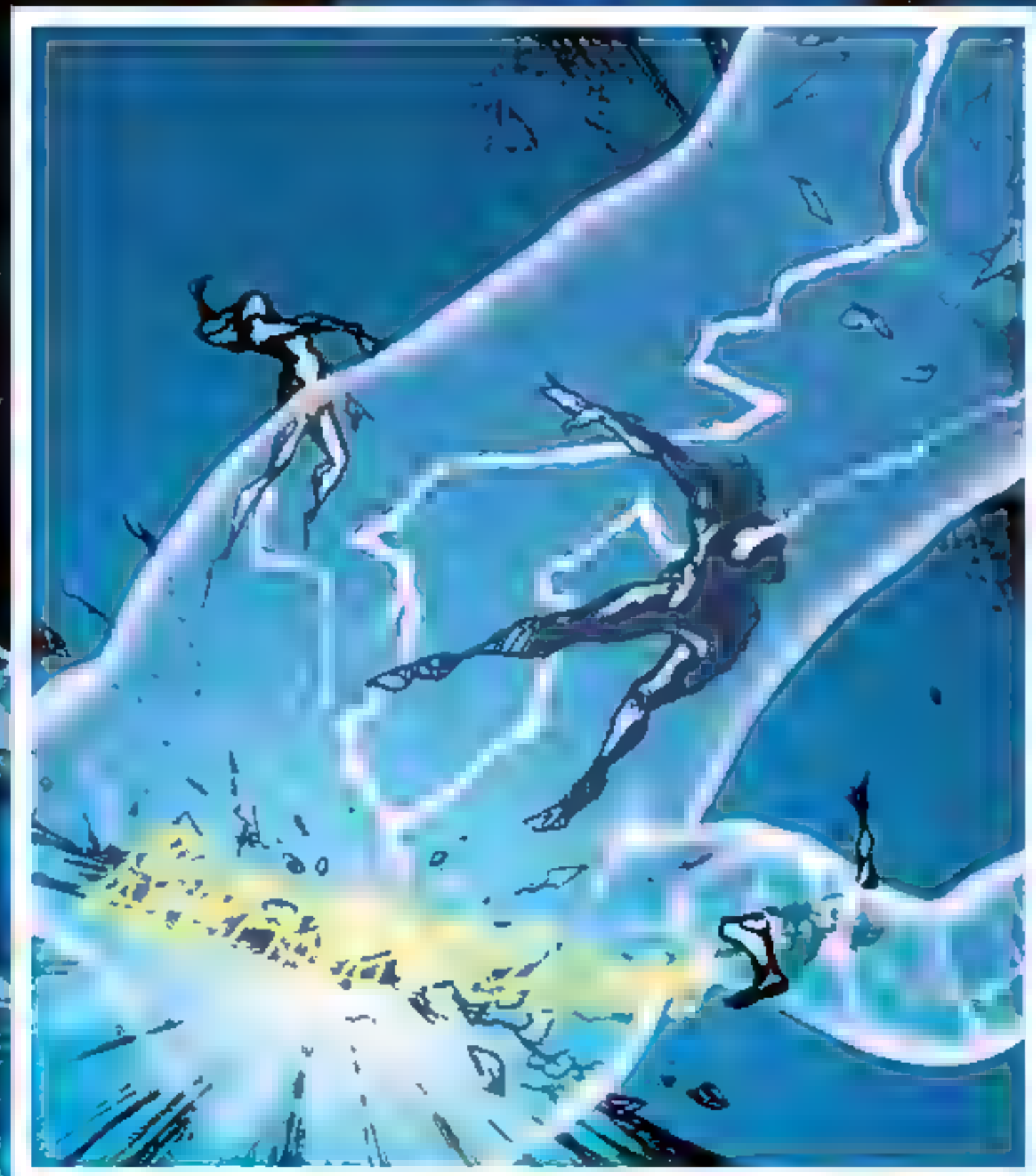
YET DISSIDENT  
AT HEART

ONLY THE  
BLACK COULD  
POSIT SUCH A  
SIMULTANEOUS  
ONSLAUGHT.

THE BLACK...  
OUR EARLIEST  
ANCESTORS IN  
THEIR PUREST  
FORM... UNTOLED  
POWER.

DO NOT  
SHOW FEAR. THEY  
FEED ON TERROR.  
IT STRENGTHENS  
THEIR RESOLVE.

YOU ARE  
THE FINEST OF THE  
ELITE COUNCIL GUARD,  
SWORN IN DURING THE  
WAKE OF THE GREATEST  
REBELLION. YOU FEAR  
NO ENTITY...



I AM NOT THE ONLY BEING  
WHOSE ANGER BUILDS IN THE  
DARKNESS OF THE WATER...

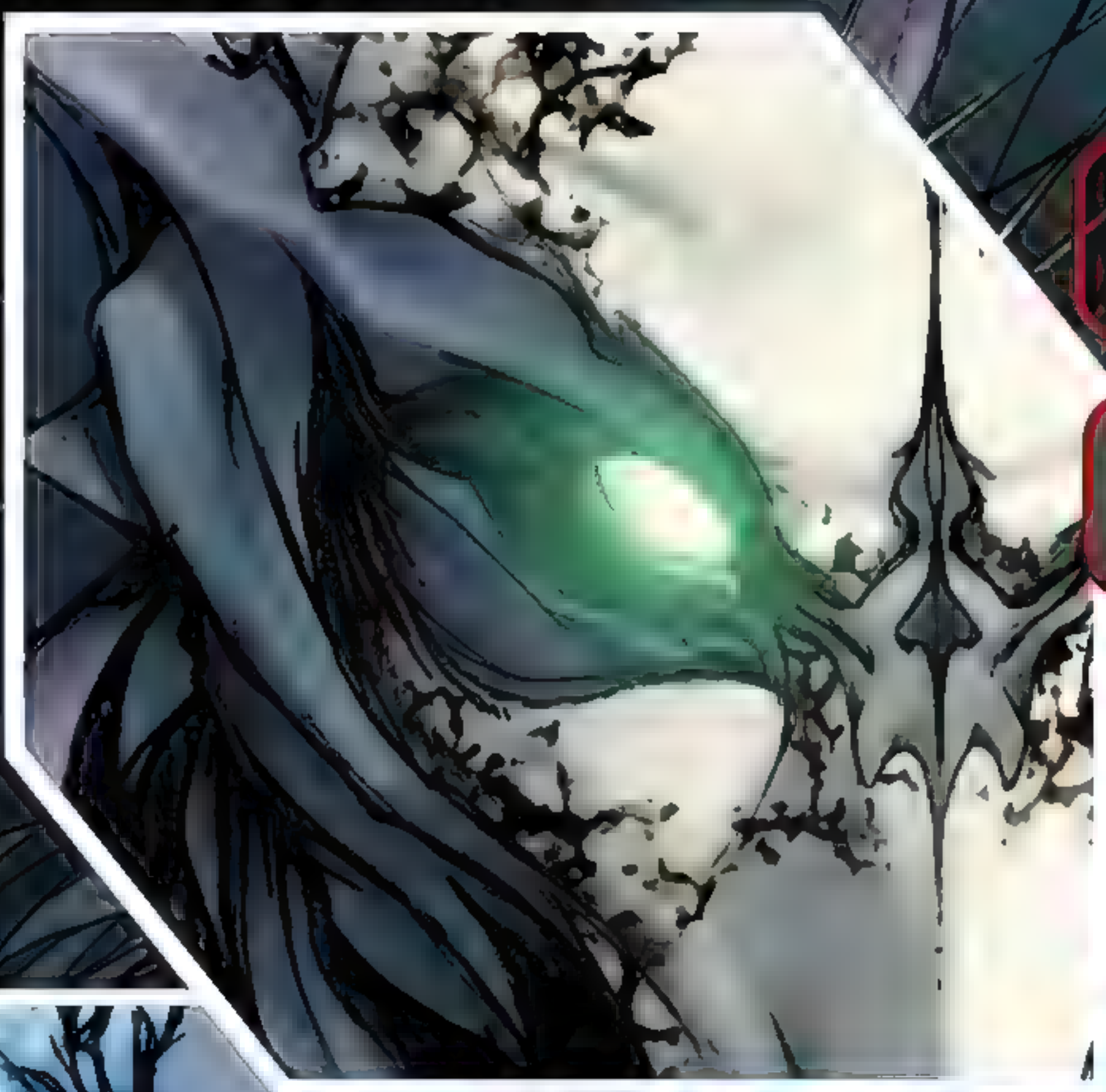




THE BLACK OFFER NO GREETING, BECAUSE  
THEY HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN US IN OUR MINDS.

HOWEVER...  
THIS ONE...  
IS DIFFERENT.

FOR AGES, THE BLACK  
HAVE COMMUNICATED  
THROUGH THE OCEAN  
CURRENTS, TELEPATHY  
BY WAY OF THE EARTH'S  
OWN OCEANIC MATTER.



THEY SPEAK  
USING THE WATER'S  
ELECTRICAL CURRENTS.

I AM NOT AS EVOLVED.  
THEIR LANGUAGE NEARLY  
CRIPPLES ME.

IT IS A LANGUAGE  
LOST TO THE BLUE,  
SAVE FOR THOSE  
OF THE STRONGEST  
RESOLVE.



THEN I  
SEE HIM...



CASQUE IS THEIR LEADER,  
OUR PAST IS COMPLICATED.





THE UNLINKABLE  
HAPPENED

THE MOST IMPENETRABLE FORTRESS  
IN THE DEEPEST SEA WAS BREACHED  
BY NATURE ITSELF.

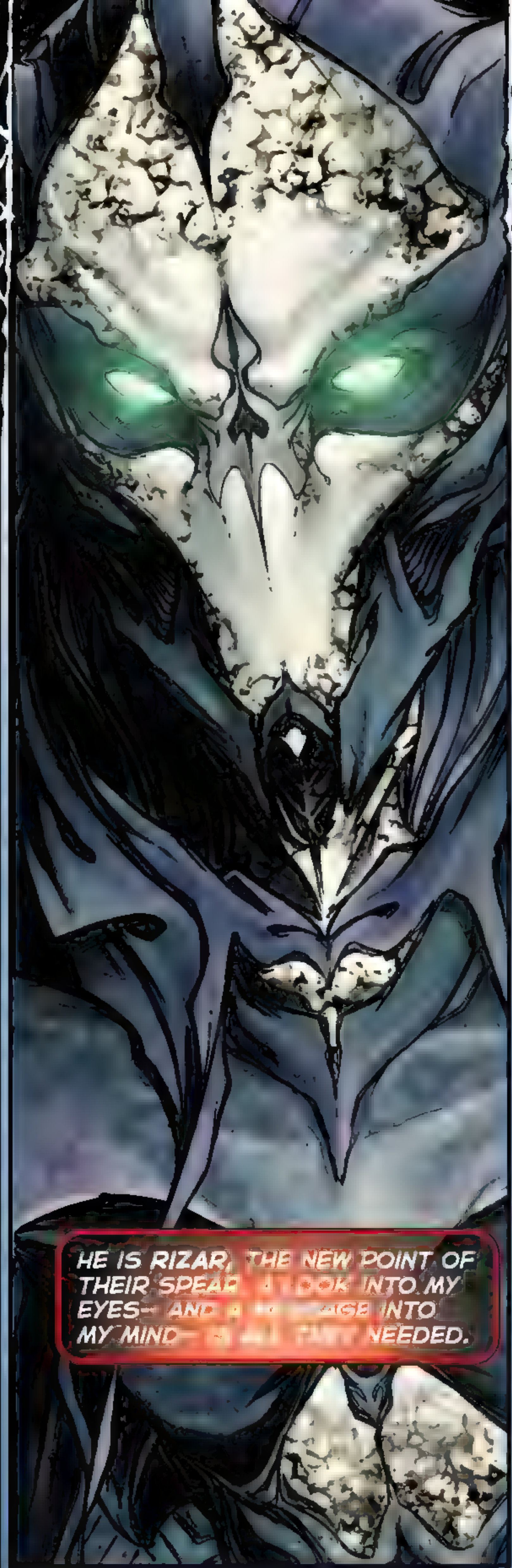
THEY WERE  
ATTACKED,  
UNEXPECTED.

THEY LOST ONE  
OF THEIR OWN.

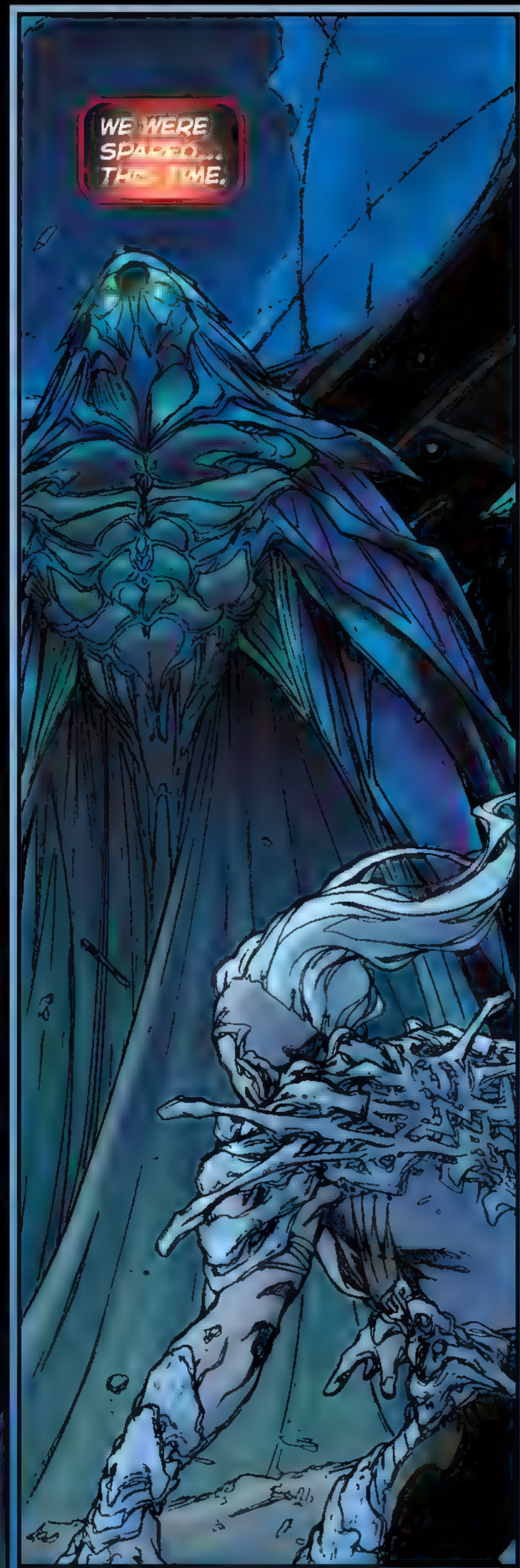
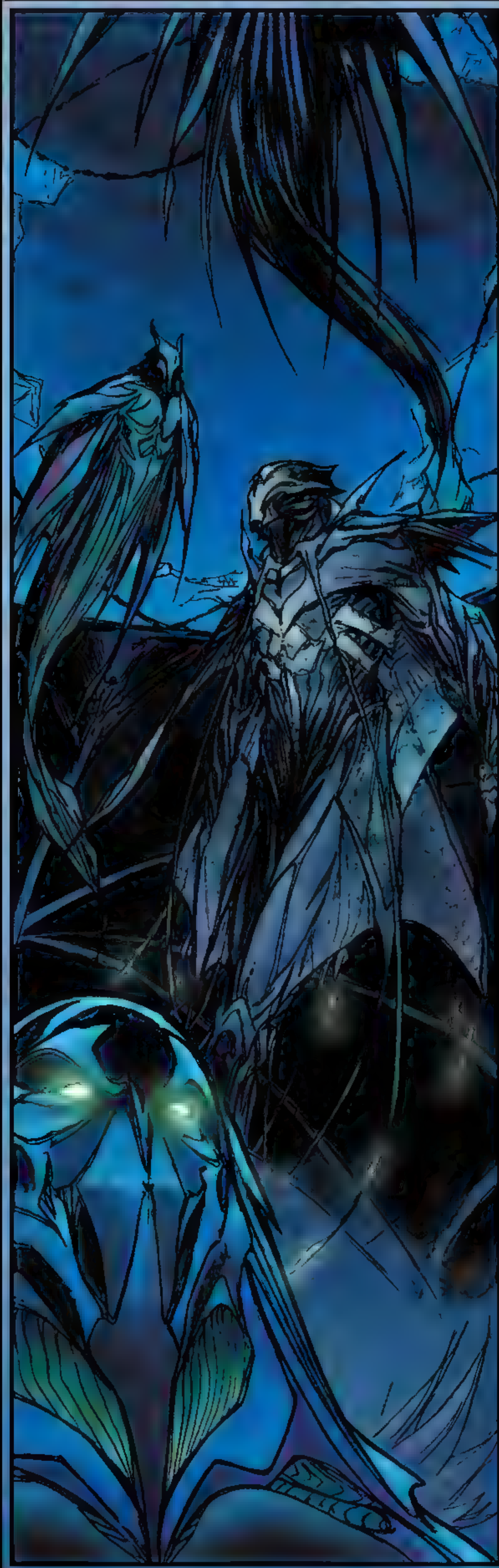
AND SO THEY SOUGHT  
TO FIND THEIR ONLY  
LOGICAL ADVERSARY.

THEY SOUGHT  
REVENGE...





HE IS RIZAR, THE NEW POINT OF  
THEIR SPEAR. I LOOK INTO MY  
EYES— AND A MESSAGE INTO  
MY MIND— IS ALL THAT NEEDED.



WE WERE  
SPACED...  
THE TIME.



YET, HISTORY  
MUST WAIT FOR  
ANOTHER TIME?



FOR WHAT GREATER  
DANGER LIES IN STORE  
FOR MY PEOPLE NOW.



THE  
DMD II.

WOW. I SCOURED  
THE WEBSITE UP AND  
DOWN FOR THE SIGN-UP  
PAGE BUT YOU GUYS  
KEEP THAT CLOSE  
TO THE VEST.

ALL IT  
TOOK WAS  
DISCOVERING THE  
END OF THE WORLD  
AT THE RING OF FIRE  
TO GET AN INVITE BY  
ASPEN MATTHEWS  
HERSELF--  
GO FIG.

YOU'RE LUCKY  
WE EVEN BROUGHT  
YOU ALONG, UH, DOC.  
AND WHAT KIND OF  
CODE-NAME IS THAT  
ANYWAY? *DOC BLUE?*  
GENERIC MUCH?

YOU SAY  
GENERIC, I SAY  
UNFORGETTABLE. AND  
YOU'RE WELCOME FOR  
SAVING YOUR BUTTS BACK  
THERE. WHY WOULD THAT  
PILOT RISK TAKING A HELO  
DIRECTLY INTO A HEAT  
VAPOR STREAM,  
I MEAN--

--HEY,  
ENOUGH,  
GUYS--

LISTEN, DOC,  
YOU OBVIOUSLY  
KNOW WHO I AM.  
BUT WE DON'T KNOW  
NEARLY ENOUGH ABOUT  
YOU. I DIDN'T BRING  
YOU HERE FOR  
A FIELD TRIP.

YOU SAVED  
MY BEST FRIEND'S  
LIFE, AND I SAVED  
YOURS-- SO WE'RE EVEN.  
BUT, THAT DOESN'T  
MEAN YOU'VE  
EARNED OUR  
TRUST.

I BROUGHT  
YOU HERE FOR  
ANSWERS.

YOU WANT  
ANSWERS. JOIN THE  
CLUB, ASPEN. MY ENTIRE  
LIFE IS ONE BIG RIDDLE.  
I'M MORE LIKE YOU  
THAN YOU THINK.

YOU KNOW  
WHAT IT'S LIKE  
TO...NOT ASK  
FOR ANY  
OF THIS.

WHEN YOU  
SAY...*THIS*,  
EXACTLY WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?





OKAY, SO WE ALL  
KNOW YOUR ORIGIN  
STORY, RIGHT?

ASPEN MATTHEWS— FAMOUSLY  
BORN OF TWO WORLDS— THE ONE  
WE KNOW, AND THE ONE BELOW.

YOU CAN MOVE OCEANS  
WITH A THOUGHT BUT ALSO  
HAVE A HEART OF GOLD.

BIG BAD KILLIAN FROM DOWN  
THERE TRIED TO HERO-NAP  
YOU AND USE YOUR POWERS  
FOR NO GOOD.

YOU PROCEEDED TO KICK HIS  
ASS AND THE REST IS HISTORY.

BUT YOU DIDN'T  
ASK FOR ANY  
OF IT, DID YOU?  
THE POWER, THE  
RESPONSIBILITY.  
WELL, ME?





I KINDA DID ASK FOR IT, SO  
TO SPEAK— AND I GOT IT,  
MINUS THE RESPONSIBILITY  
PART. AND IN DOSES THAT  
CHANGED MY PHYSIOLOGY IN  
WAYS I'M STILL FIGURING OUT.

LIKE YOU, I'M A SCIENTIST. YET  
MY FOCUS IS ON NANOTECH. THIS  
AMAZING SYNTHETIC THAT I'VE  
ENGINEERED TO ADHERE TO MY  
EVERY COMMAND. IT ENDED UP  
SAVING MY LIFE.

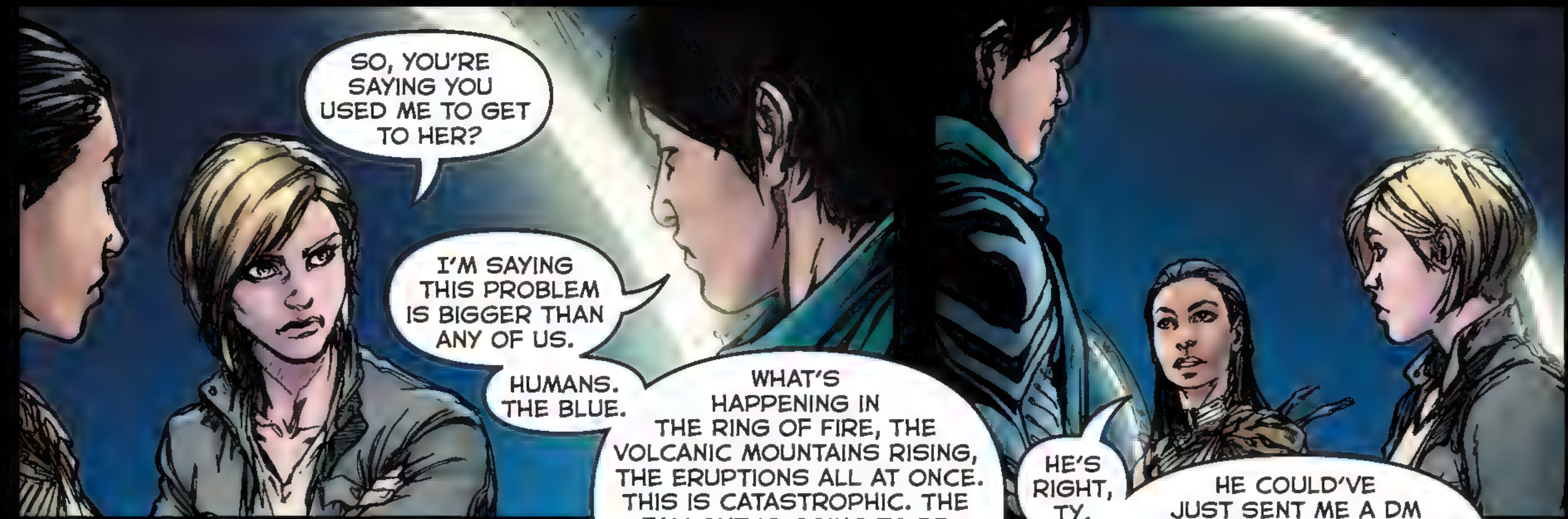
WITHOUT THIS NANOTECH,  
MY BLUE SKIN... WELL, IT  
TAKES OVER IN WAYS THAT  
ARE NOT GOOD. TRUST ME.

SOMETIMES, I FEEL DRAWN TO THE OCEAN...  
LIKE A DRUG. I SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS  
SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS DOWN HERE UNDER  
THE SURFACE. I WANTED TO FIND SOMETHING  
THAT WOULD TELL ME WHAT WAS HAPPENING...

WHAT I FOUND  
INSTEAD WAS  
MUCH WORSE.

IT WAS THEN I  
KNEW I NEEDED  
YOUR HELP, ASPEN.





SO, YOU'RE SAYING YOU USED ME TO GET TO HER?

I'M SAYING THIS PROBLEM IS BIGGER THAN ANY OF US.

HUMANS. THE BLUE.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE RING OF FIRE, THE VOLCANIC MOUNTAINS RISING, THE ERUPTIONS ALL AT ONCE. THIS IS CATASTROPHIC. THE FALLOUT IS GOING TO BE DARKNESS AND DESPAIR IF WE CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO STOP IT-- AND FAST.

HE'S RIGHT, TY.

HE COULD'VE JUST SENT ME A DM AND SAVED US A LOT OF TIME, A HELICOPTER, AND HIS PRIDE, BUT WE DO NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE.



RIGHT. WELL, I HAVE A FEW THEORIES ON THAT AS WELL. I ASSUME YOU GUYS HAVE A COMPUTER AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE?

DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

DAVID, IS IT? CAN YOU PULL UP THE EIGHT-STAGE RENDERING ON THIS SCHEMATIC, MY GOOD MAN?

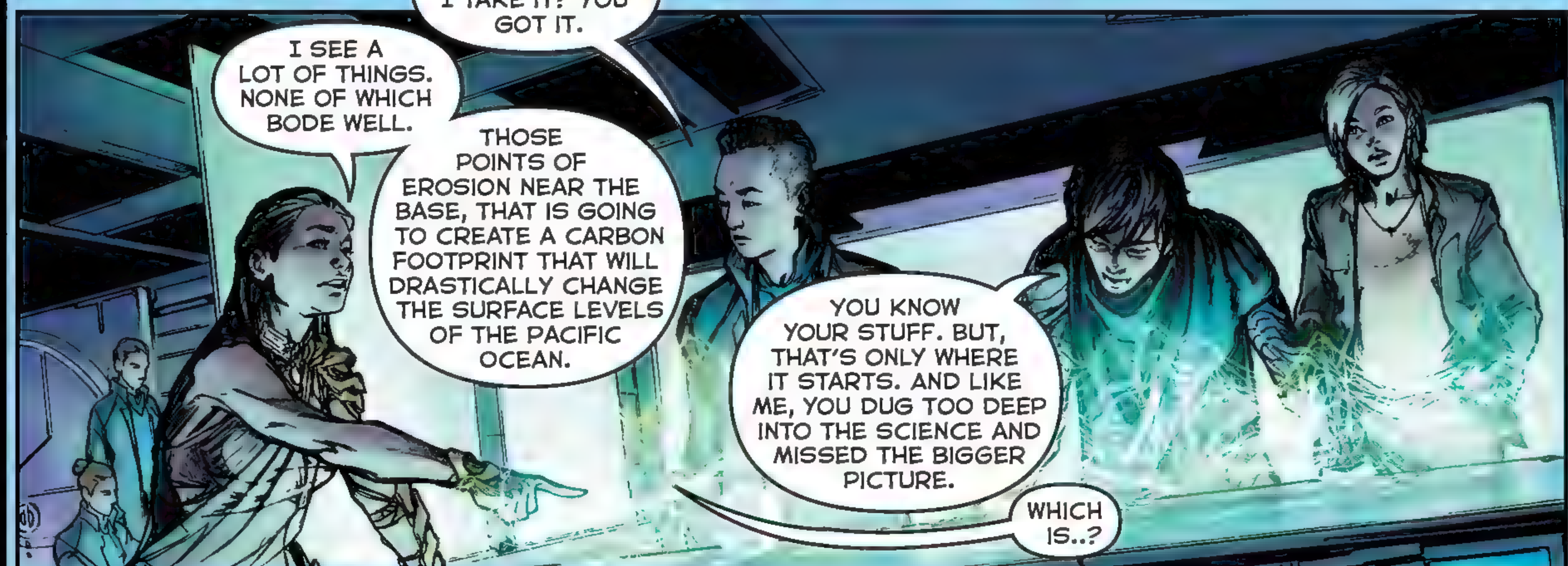
A FELLOW SIMULATOR GEEK I TAKE IT? YOU GOT IT.

I SEE A LOT OF THINGS. NONE OF WHICH BODE WELL.

THOSE POINTS OF EROSION NEAR THE BASE, THAT IS GOING TO CREATE A CARBON FOOTPRINT THAT WILL DRASTICALLY CHANGE THE SURFACE LEVELS OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

YOU KNOW YOUR STUFF. BUT, THAT'S ONLY WHERE IT STARTS. AND LIKE ME, YOU DUG TOO DEEP INTO THE SCIENCE AND MISSED THE BIGGER PICTURE.

WHICH IS..?



THAT THESE MOUNTAINS ARE NOT JUST FORMING AT RANDOM PLACES ON THE MAP.

WHEN YOU PUT ALL OF THEIR VISUAL TOPOGRAPHY TOGETHER, AND CHANGE THE PERCEPTION OF HOW YOU VIEW THEM...

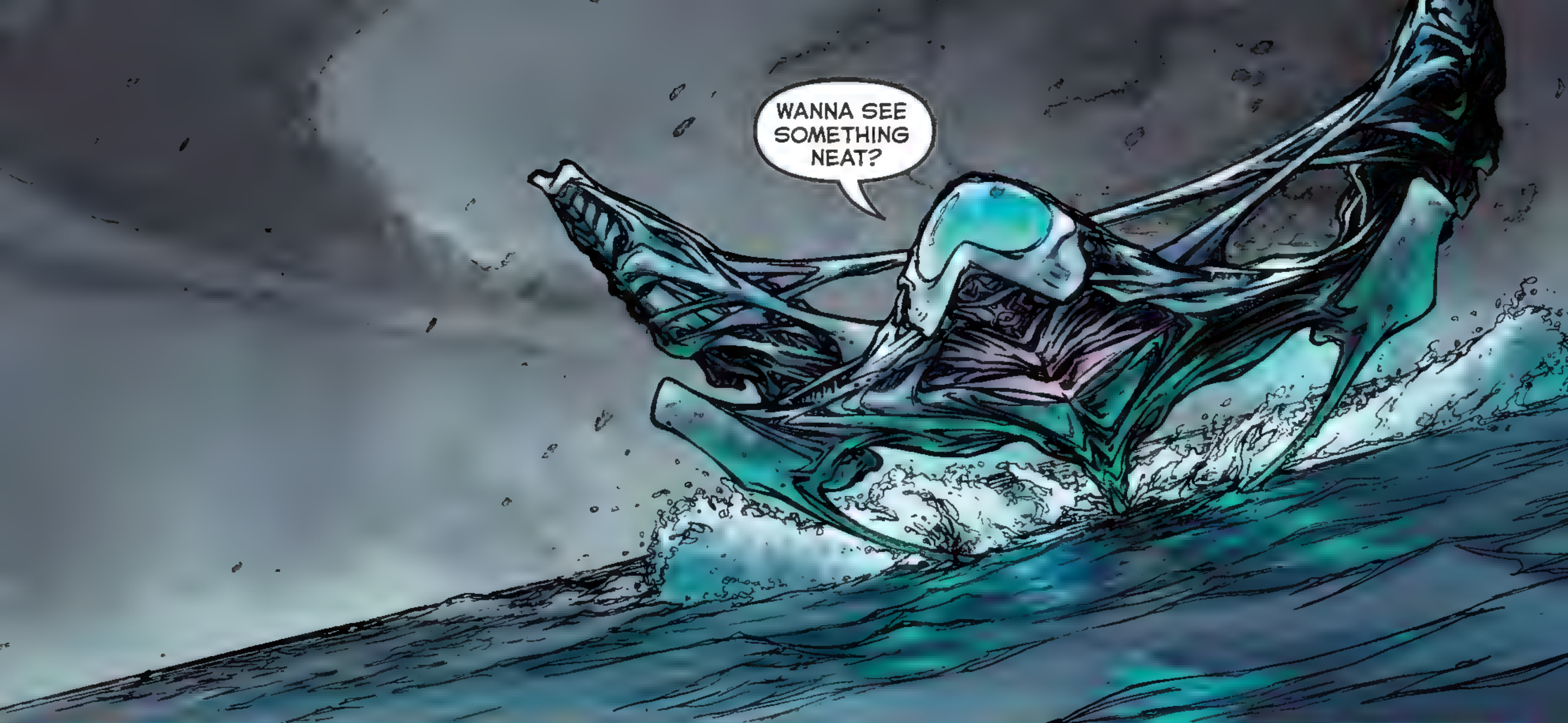


IT'S A GATEWAY...

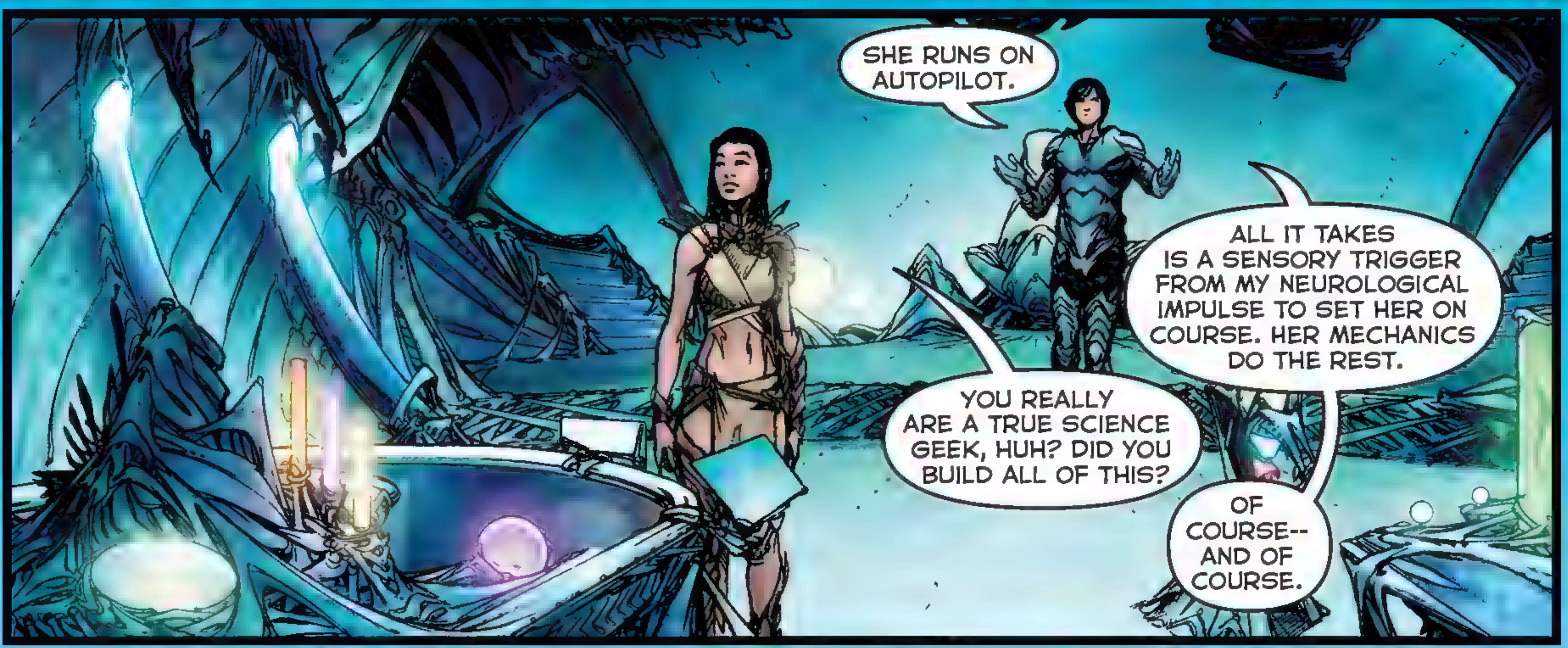
I THINK YOU BETTER FIRE UP THAT SHIP, DOC.

WE'RE GOING BACK-- NOW.





WANNA SEE  
SOMETHING  
NEAT?



SHE RUNS ON  
AUTOPILOT.

ALL IT TAKES  
IS A SENSORY TRIGGER  
FROM MY NEUROLOGICAL  
IMPULSE TO SET HER ON  
COURSE. HER MECHANICS  
DO THE REST.

YOU REALLY  
ARE A TRUE SCIENCE  
GEEK, HUH? DID YOU  
BUILD ALL OF THIS?

OF  
COURSE--  
AND OF  
COURSE.



YOU HAVE  
ALL OF THAT  
TECH BACK THERE  
AT THE DMD, AND WITH  
EVERYTHING YOU'VE SEEN--  
HOW ARE YOU NOT ON  
CLOUD NINE ALL  
THE TIME?

I'D BE  
LIKE A KID  
IN A CANDY  
STORE.

I THINK YOU  
JUST SAID IT-- I WAS  
STILL PRACTICALLY A KID  
WHEN MOST OF THE STUFF  
YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT  
HAPPENED.



REALLY...I'VE  
ALWAYS JUST  
WANTED...



...TO EXPLORE  
AGAIN. BEFORE  
KILLIAN. BEFORE I  
BECAME THE POSTER  
CHILD FOR SAVING THE  
WORLD ONE BLUE  
CATASTROPHE  
AT A TIME.

BUT, I  
GUESS THAT'S  
WHAT I'M DOING  
NOW, RIGHT?

HOLD THAT  
THOUGHT.

THE  
NANO-RADAR IS  
CHIRPING. LOOKS LIKE  
WE MIGHT'VE FOUND  
TREASURE...



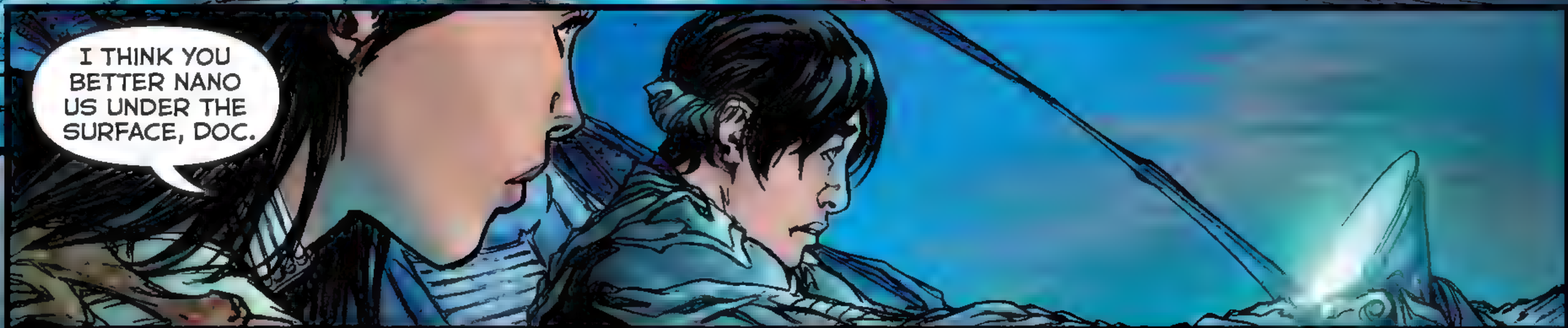




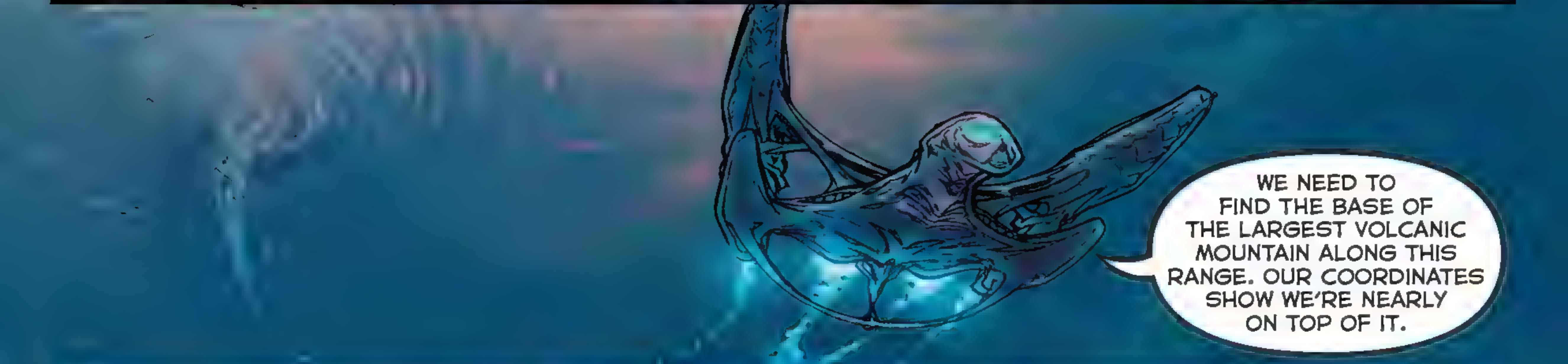
DO YOU  
KNOW WHERE  
WE'RE  
GOING?

THE SEISMIC  
READINGS AT THE  
DMD II ALL POINT TO  
ONE MARK AS THE  
STRONGEST  
READING.

NATURALLY,  
IT'S THE CENTER  
OF HELL ITSELF.



I THINK YOU  
BETTER NANO  
US UNDER THE  
SURFACE, DOC.



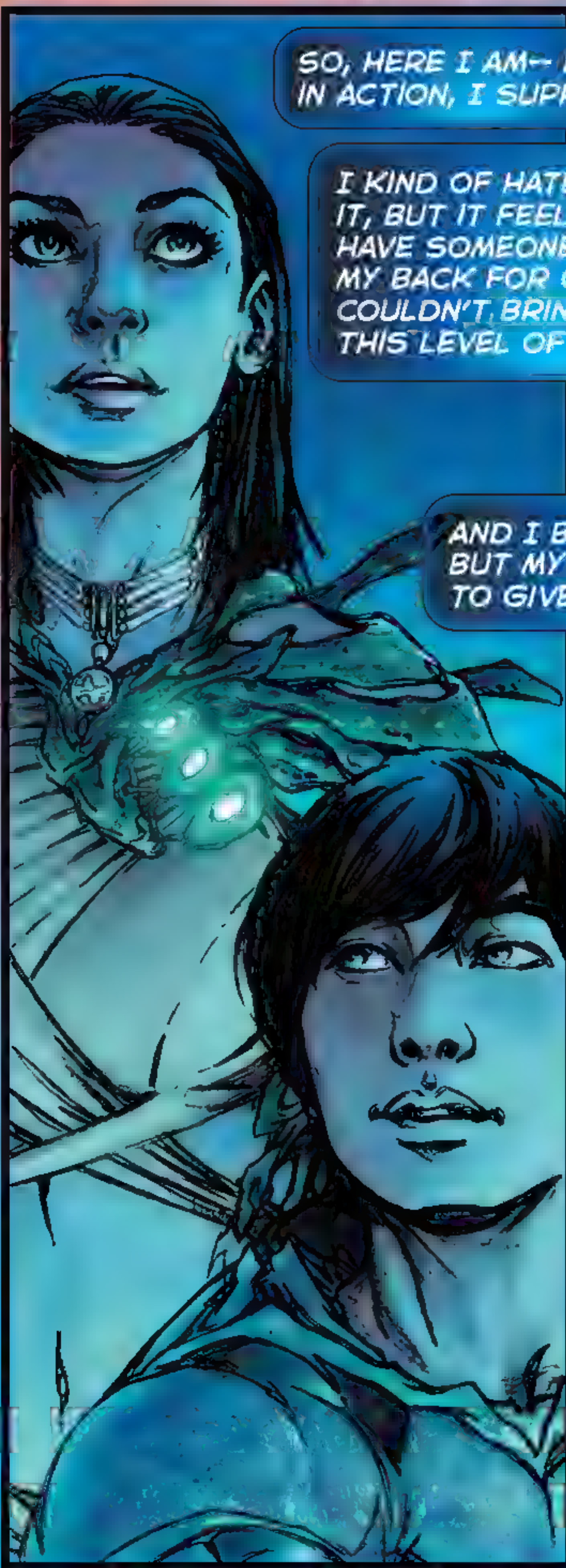
WE NEED TO  
FIND THE BASE OF  
THE LARGEST VOLCANIC  
MOUNTAIN ALONG THIS  
RANGE. OUR COORDINATES  
SHOW WE'RE NEARLY  
ON TOP OF IT.



I ASSUME  
THAT NANOTECH  
FEATURES A SWIM  
FUNCTION?

COME ON,  
NOW, WHAT IS  
THIS-- AMATEUR  
HOUR?

THEN I  
RECOMMEND  
YOU SUIT UP.



SO, HERE I AM-- BACK  
IN ACTION, I SUPPOSE.

I KIND OF HATE TO ADMIT  
IT, BUT IT FEELS GOOD TO  
HAVE SOMEONE WATCHING  
MY BACK FOR ONCE. I  
COULDN'T BRING TYLER INTO  
THIS LEVEL OF DANGER.

AND I BARELY KNOW DOC--  
BUT MY GUT TELLS ME  
TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE.



I'M NEVER ONE TO  
TRUST SOMEONE SO  
FAST, BUT REALLY...



THIS MIGHT REQUIRE  
SOME FINESSE--  
AND HELP

DID YOU  
SEE THE SIZE  
OF THE BASE  
OF THIS  
THING?

WHATEVER  
IS CAUSING ALL  
OF THIS-- MY GUESS  
IS IT STARTS  
THERE.

I SHOULD  
MENTION MY SUIT IS  
WATERPROOF BUT  
NOT FIREPROOF.

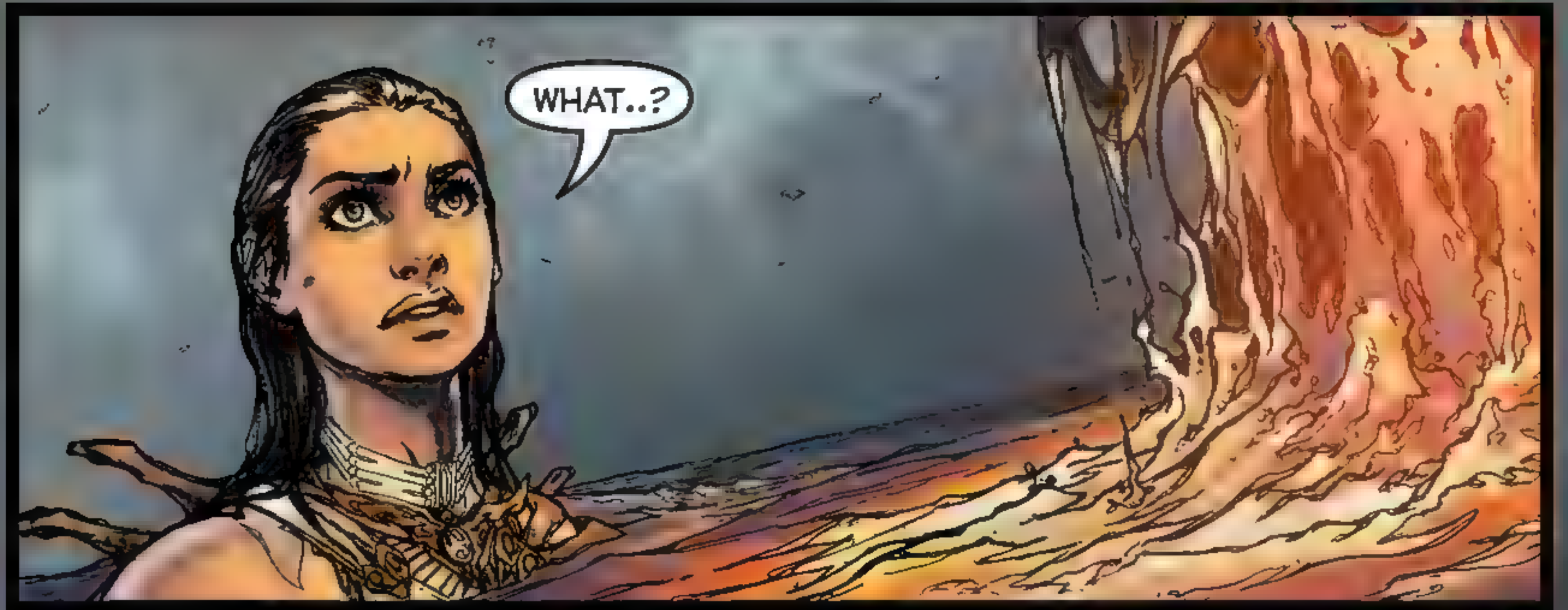
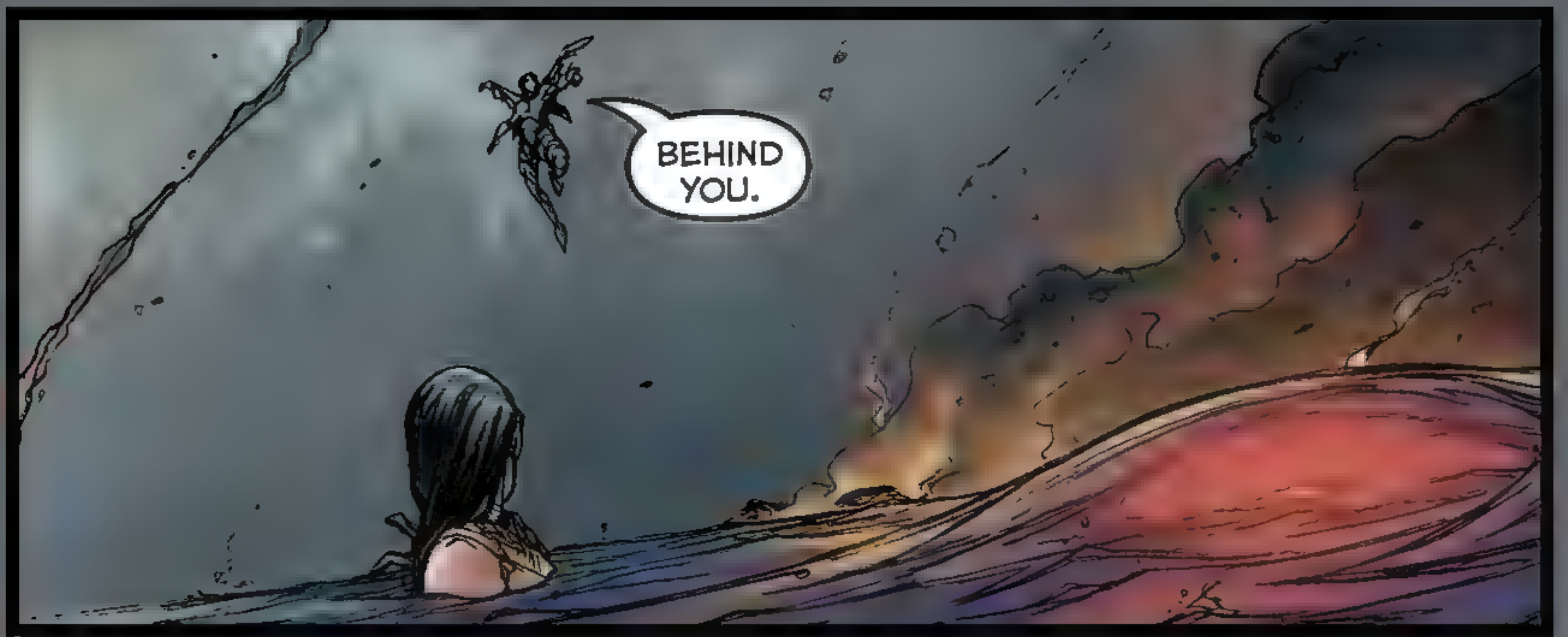
JUST  
STICK CLOSE  
BY ME.

DOC!

SHII--  
SPLSHHHH

THAT WAS  
CLOSE. MY NANO  
SENSORS ARE  
READING DANGER  
NEARBY!









WHAT...  
ARE YOU..?



C'MON, WE  
NEED TO GET  
OUTTA HERE.



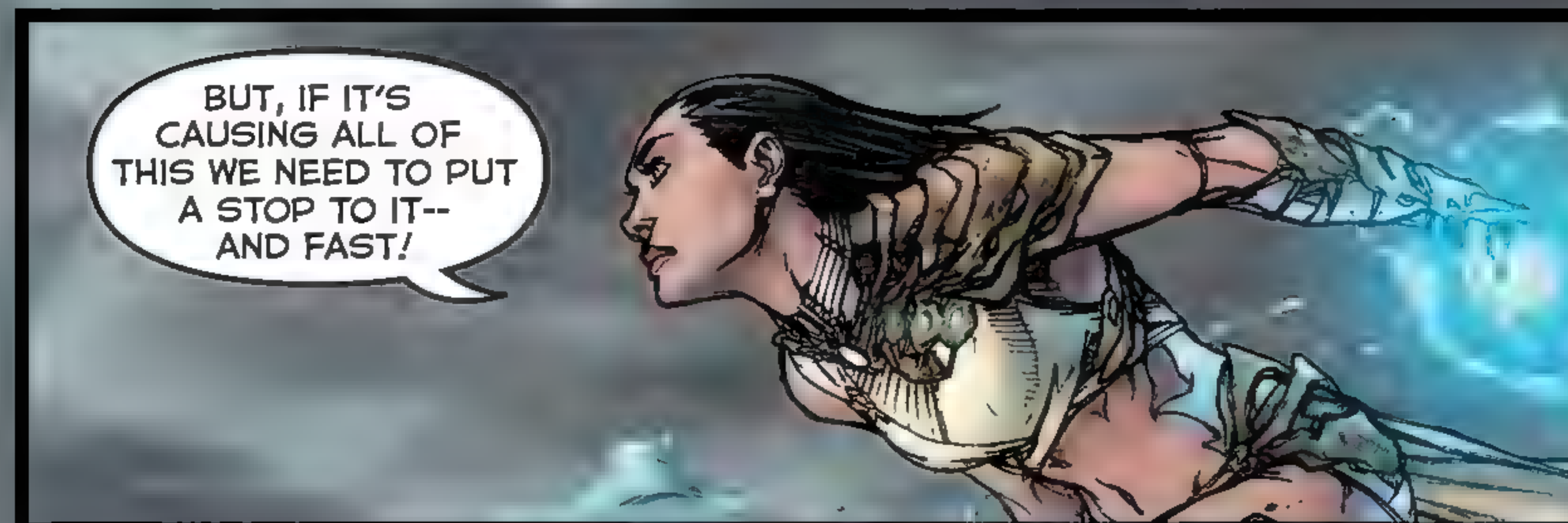
WAIT--  
WHAT IS THAT  
THING?!



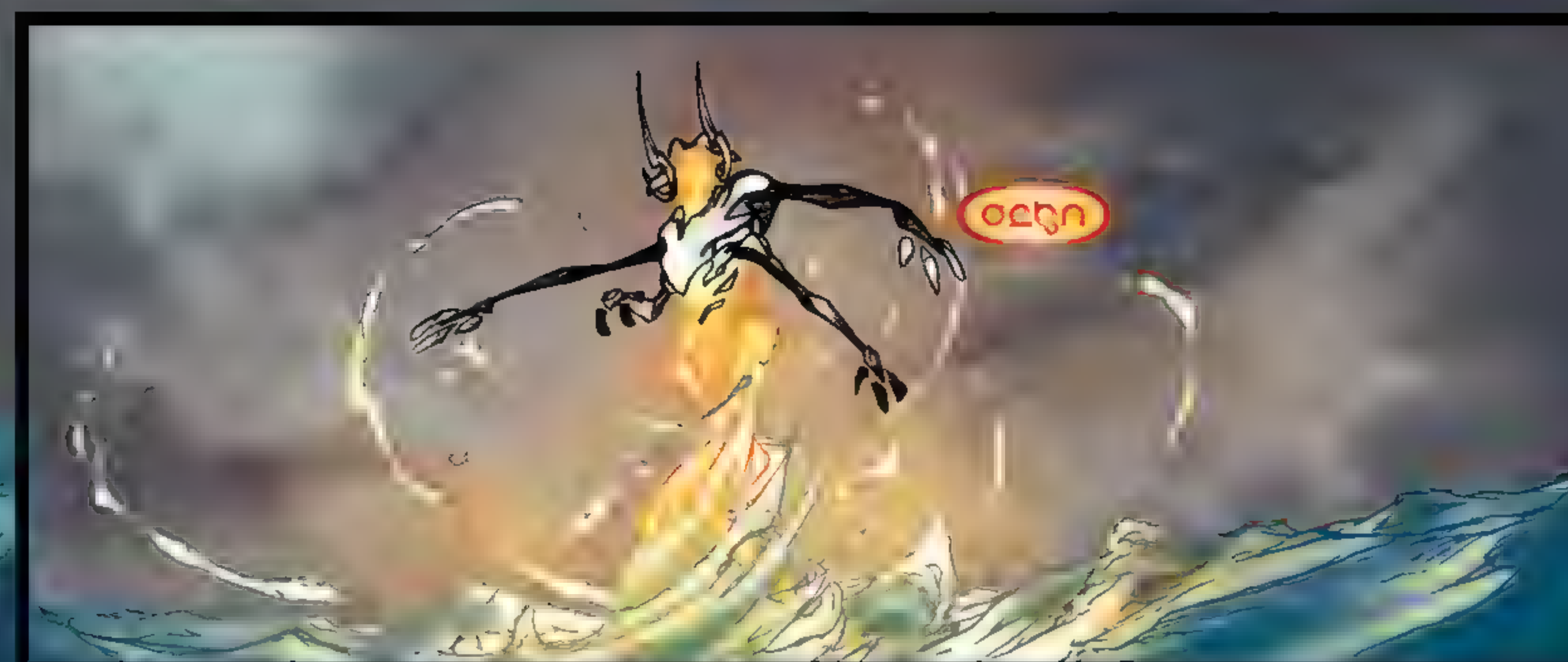
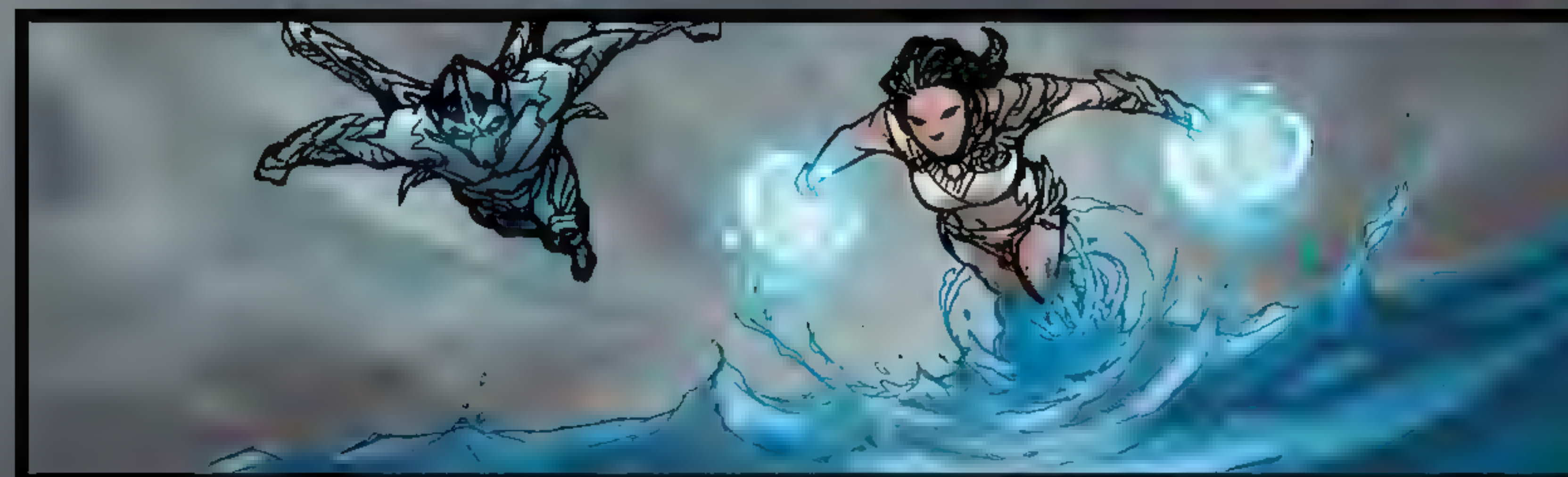
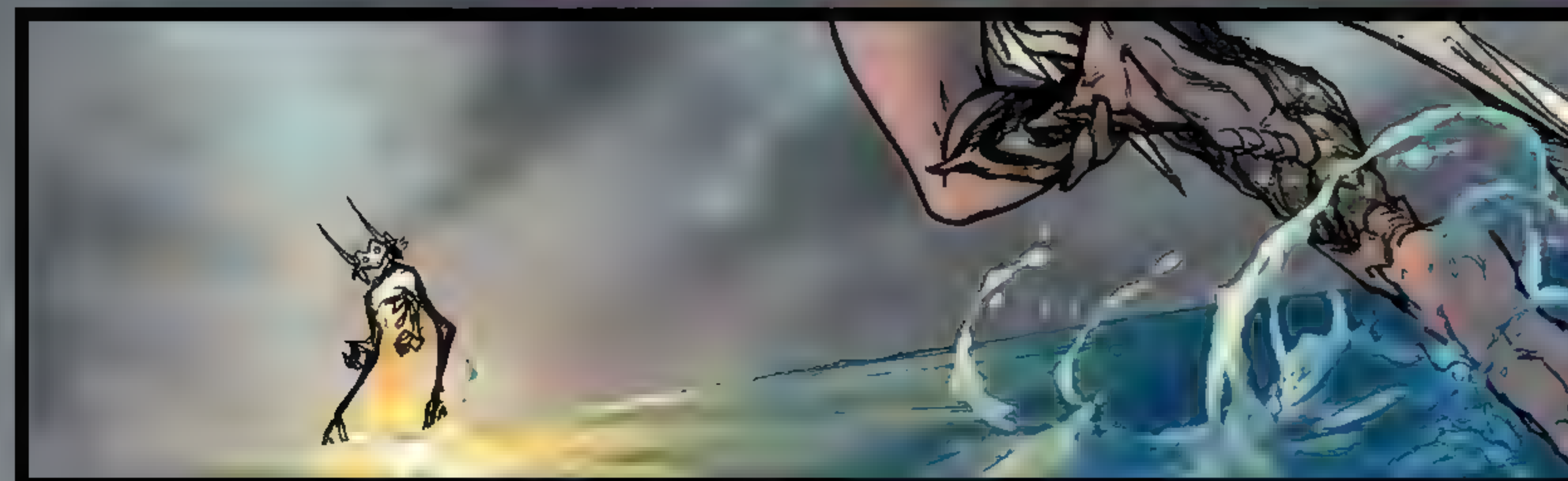


MY GUESS  
IS WE FOUND  
OUR CULPRIT.

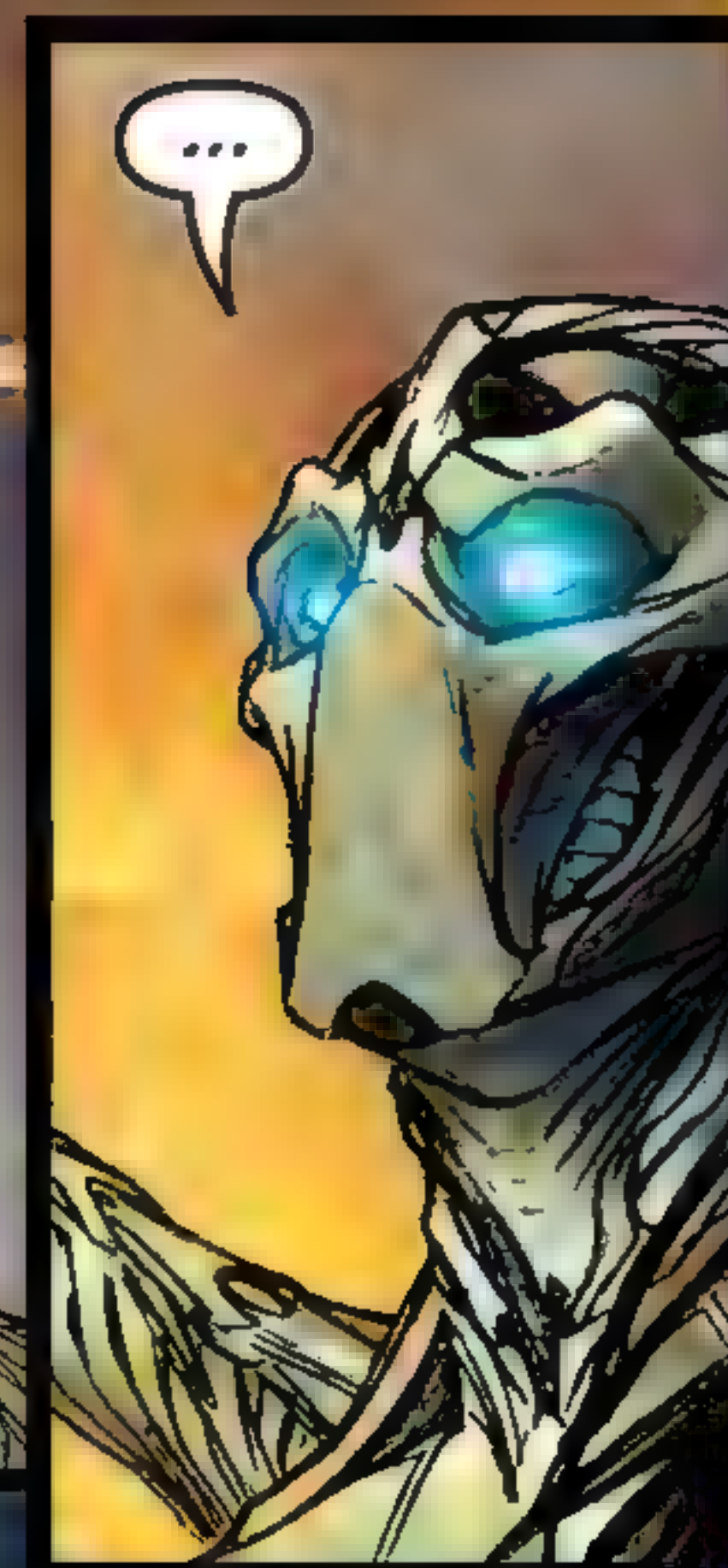
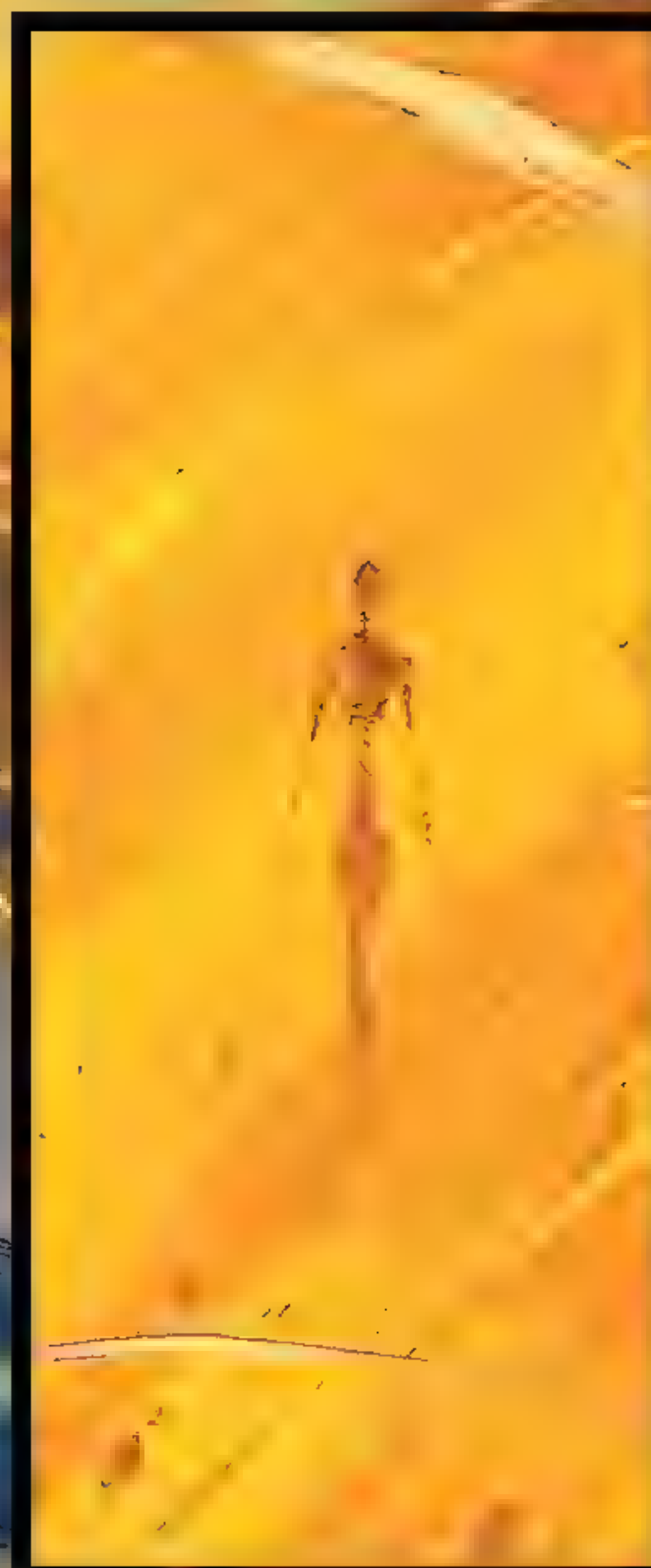
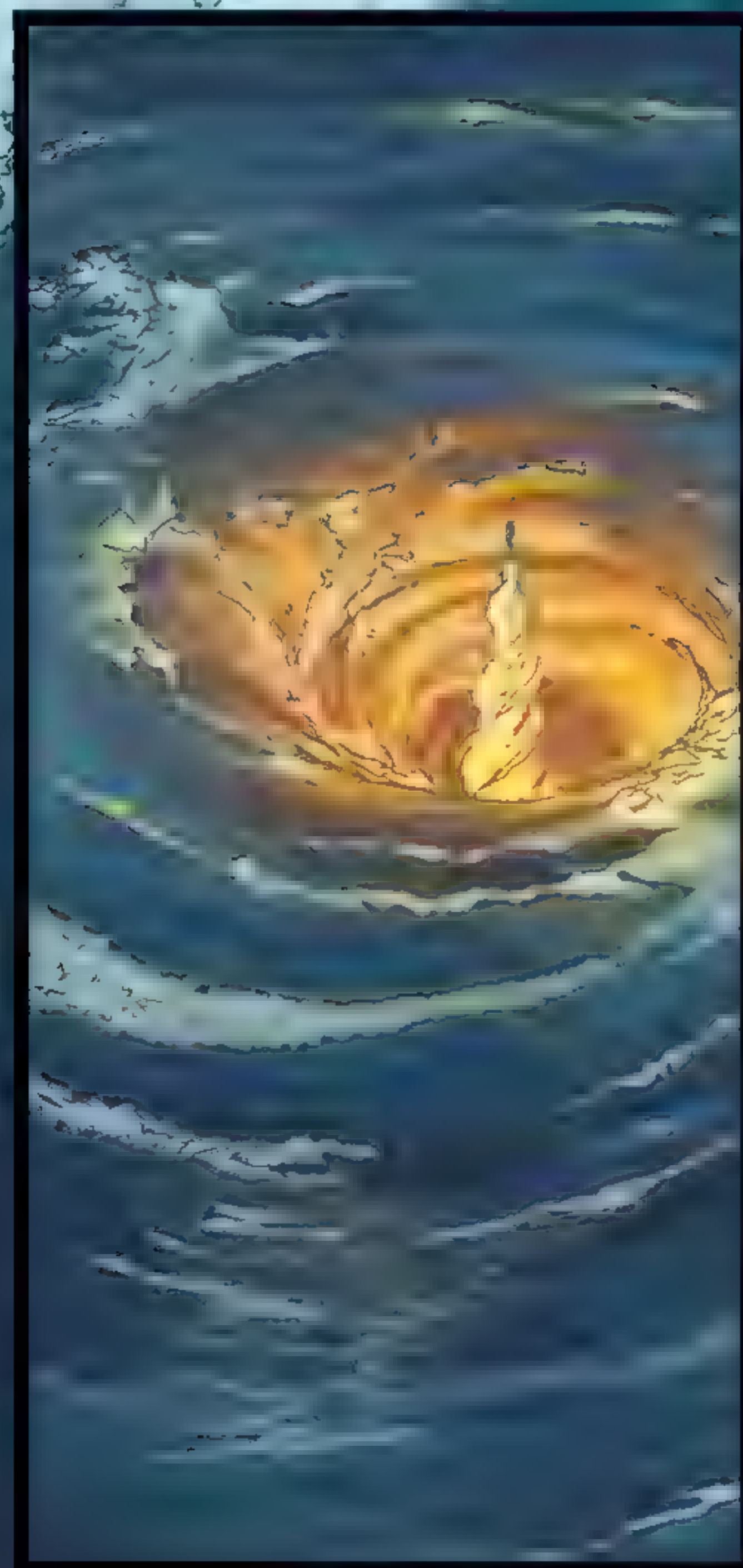
I'VE NEVER  
SEEN ANYTHING  
LIKE THAT  
BEFORE.



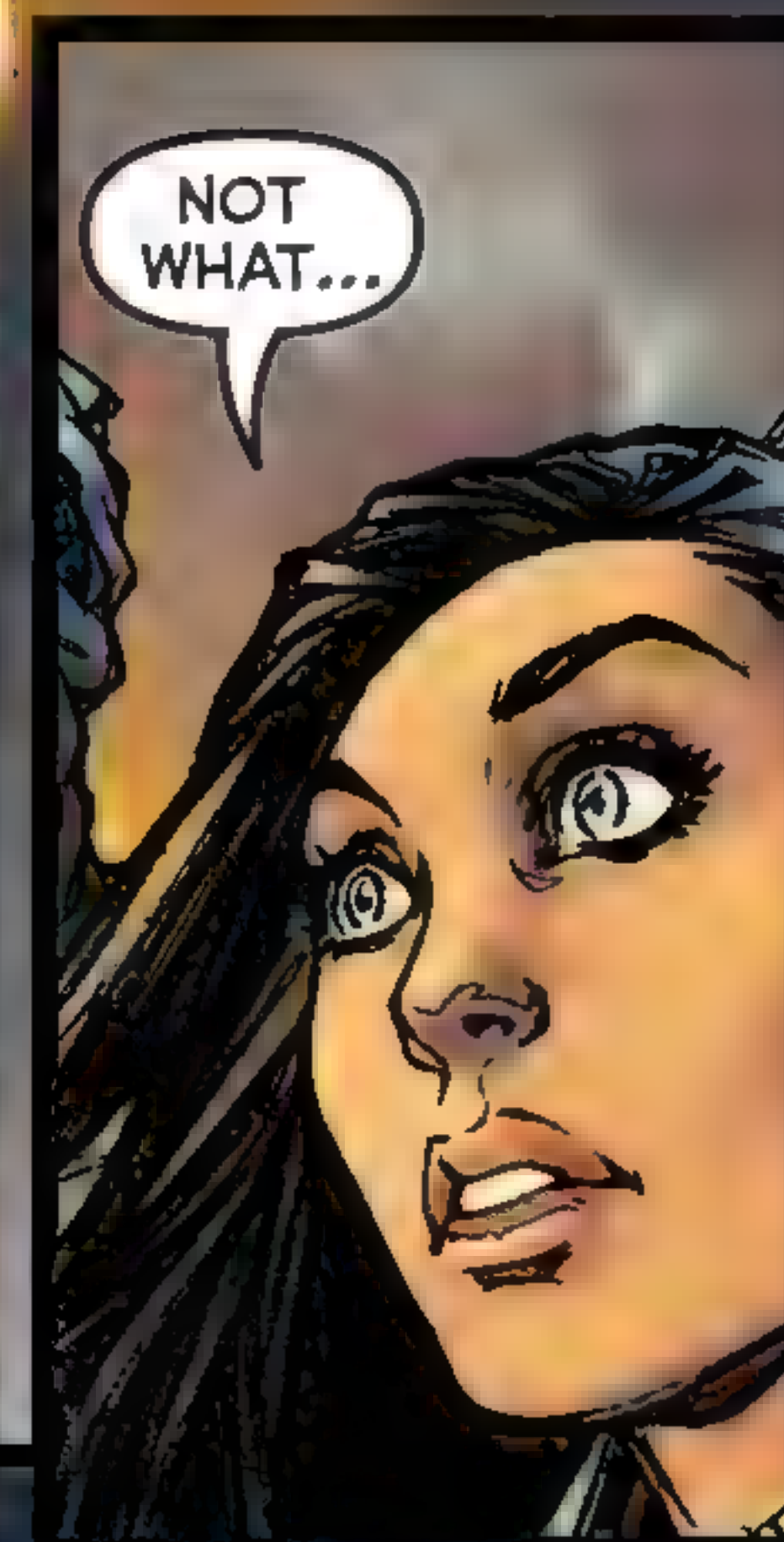
BUT, IF IT'S  
CAUSING ALL OF  
THIS WE NEED TO PUT  
A STOP TO IT--  
AND FAST!



SERIOUSLY--  
WHAT IS  
GOING ON?!



...



NOT  
WHAT...





BUT  
WHO?

THE STORY CONTINUES IN THE  
NEXT EXCITING CHAPTER

MICHAEL TURNER'S

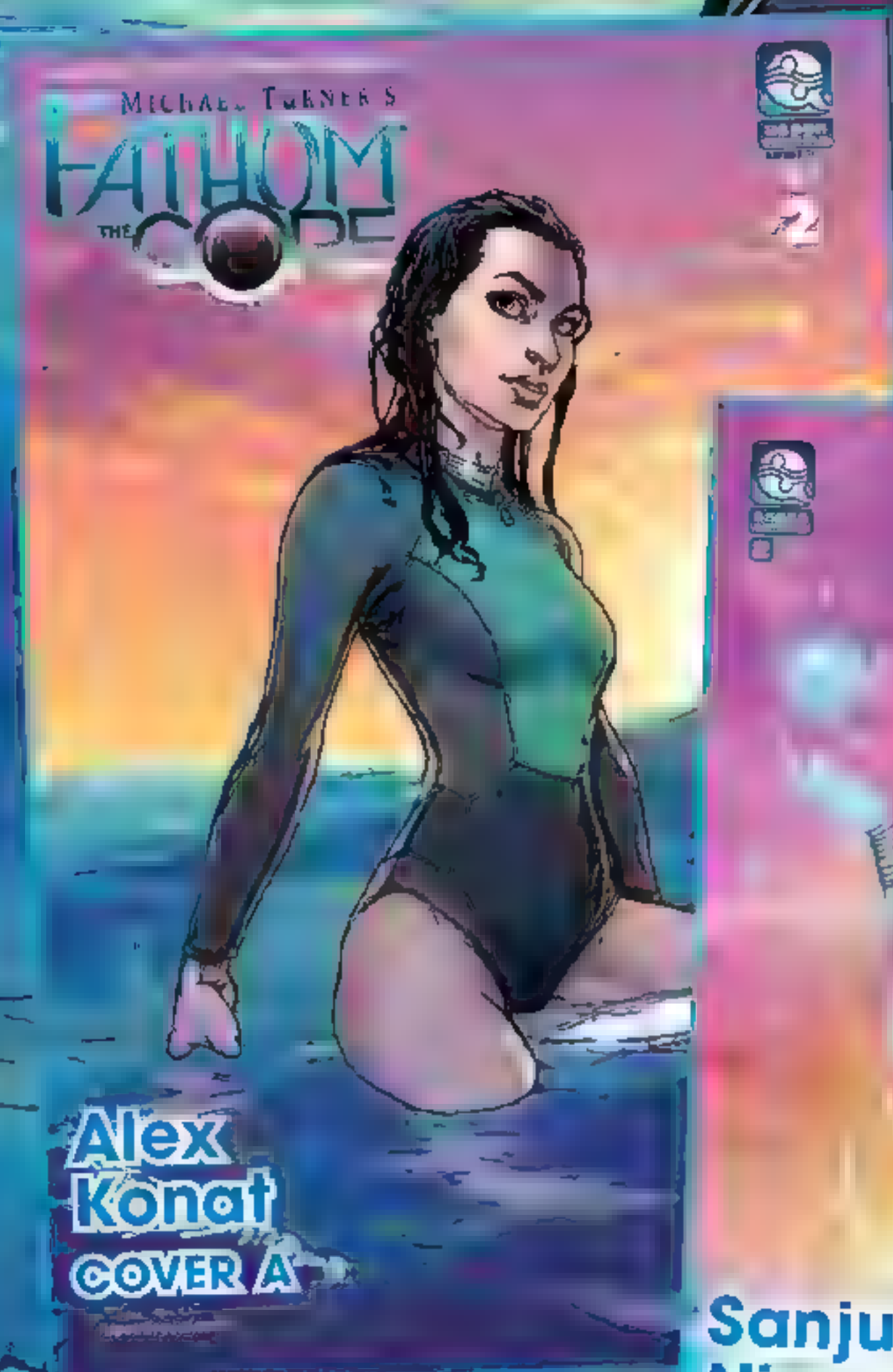
**FATHOM** #2  
THE CORE

ON SALE  
NEXT  
MONTH!



# MICHAEL TURNER'S **FATHOM** THE **CORE** #2 **NEXT ISSUE!**

**ASPEN COMICS'  
LARGEST AND MOST  
AMBITIOUS RELEASE  
CONTINUES  
IN THE SECOND  
ACTION-PACKED  
CHAPTER!**



**WRITER VINCE HERNANDEZ**  
CHARISMAGIC DAMSELS IN EXCESS DELLEC

**ARTIST ALEX KONAT**  
FATHOM SEAWAY ETERNAL SOWLETT

**DIGITAL INKS MARK ROSLAN**  
FATHOM SEAWAY SOWLETT ULTIMATE X

**COLOR ARTIST PETER STEIGERWALD**  
FATHOM SEAWAY SOWLETT SPAWN

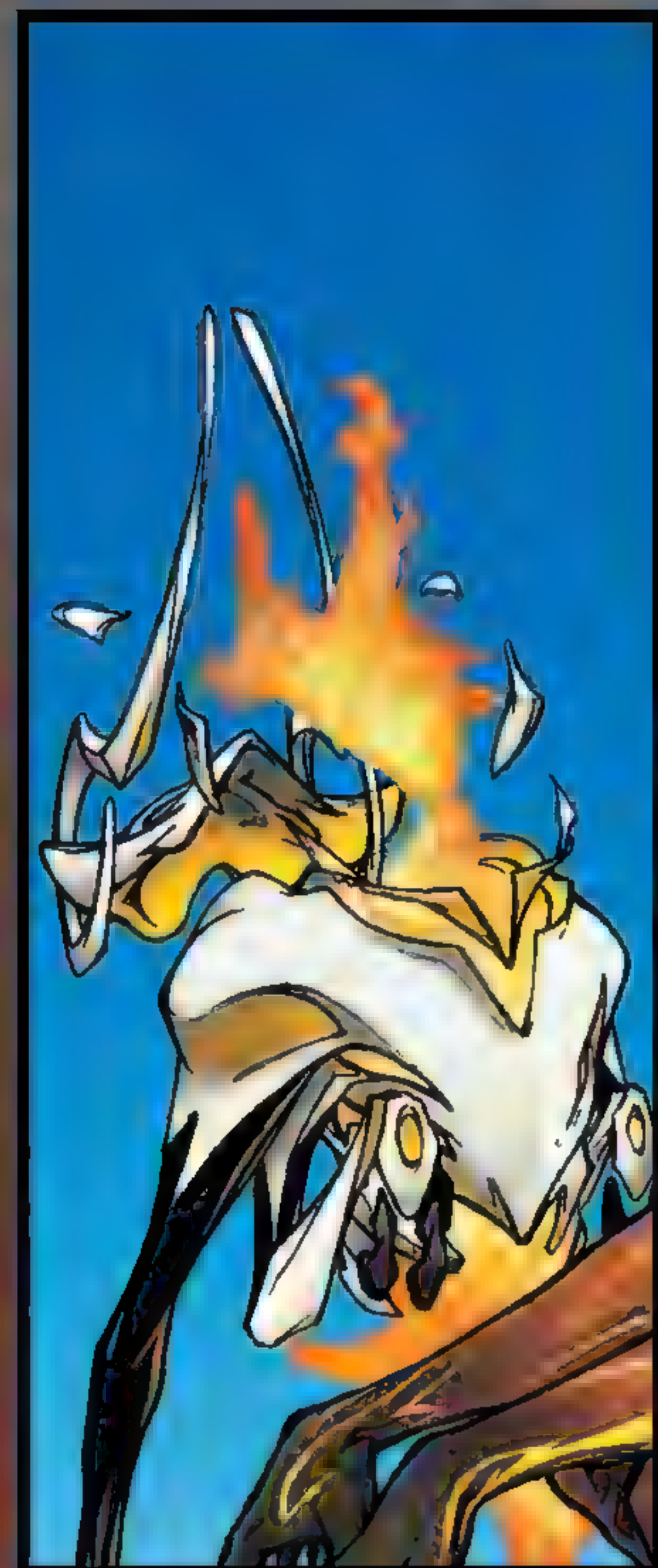
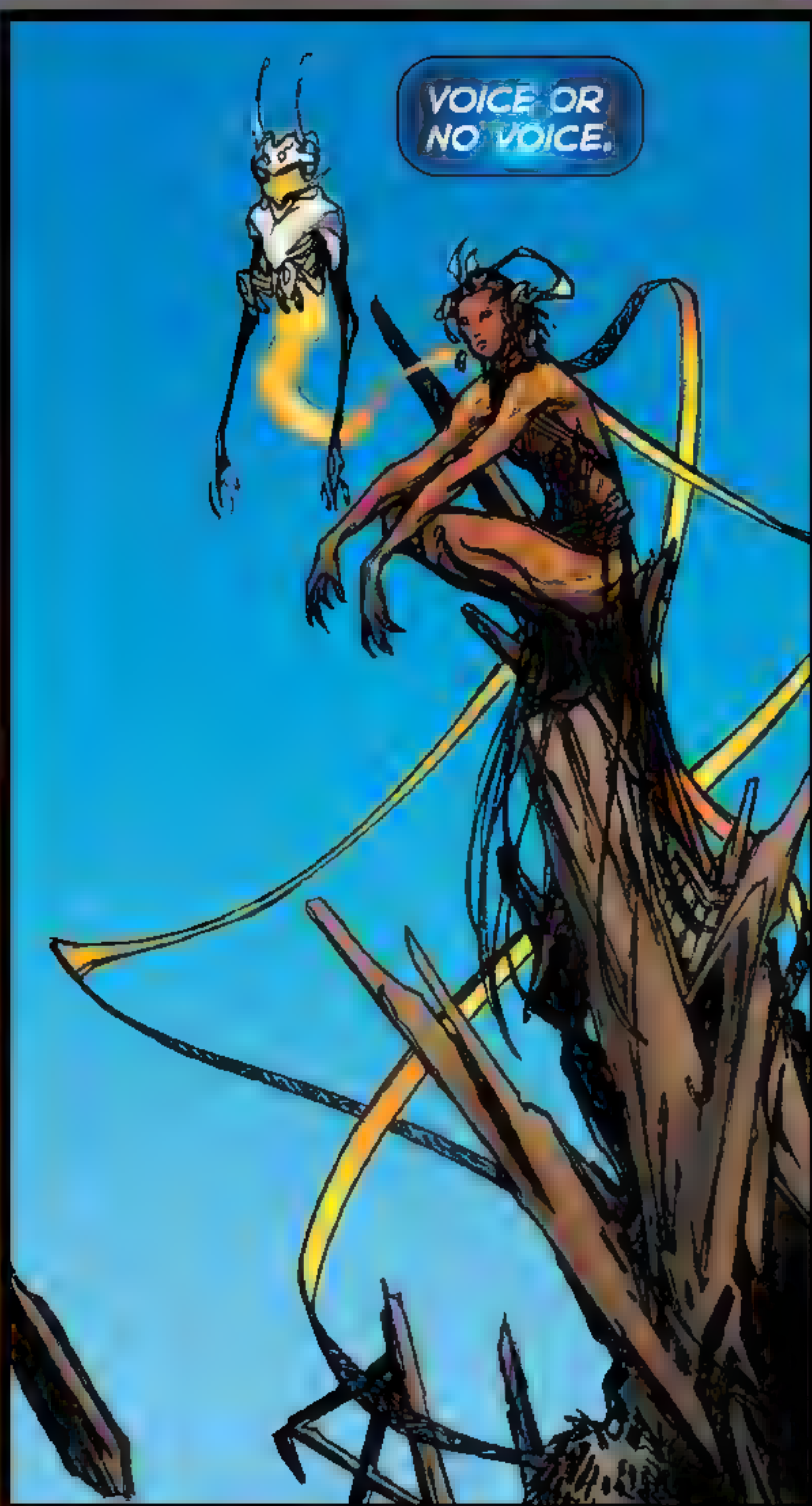
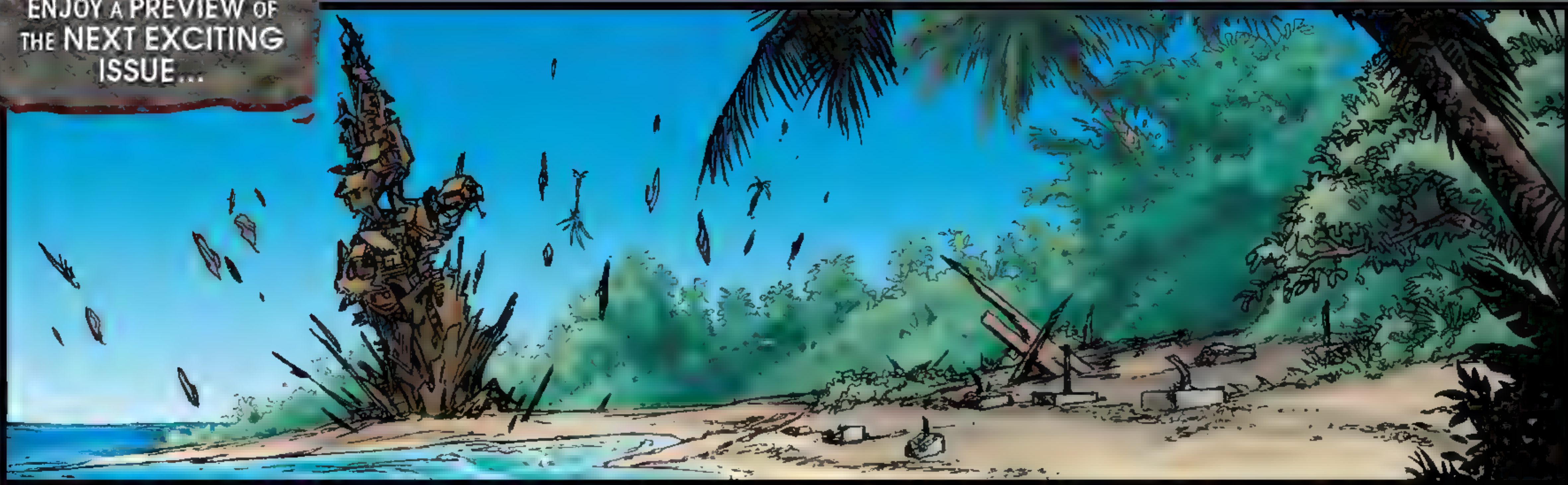
**LETTERING ZEN**  
SOWLETT SOWLETT

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ENJOY A PREVIEW OF  
THE NEXT EXCITING  
ISSUE...







YOU DON'T  
NEED TO SPEAK  
WHEN YOU CAN  
MOVE MATTER,  
I SUPPOSE.

YOU SURE  
YOU WANNA  
DO THIS?

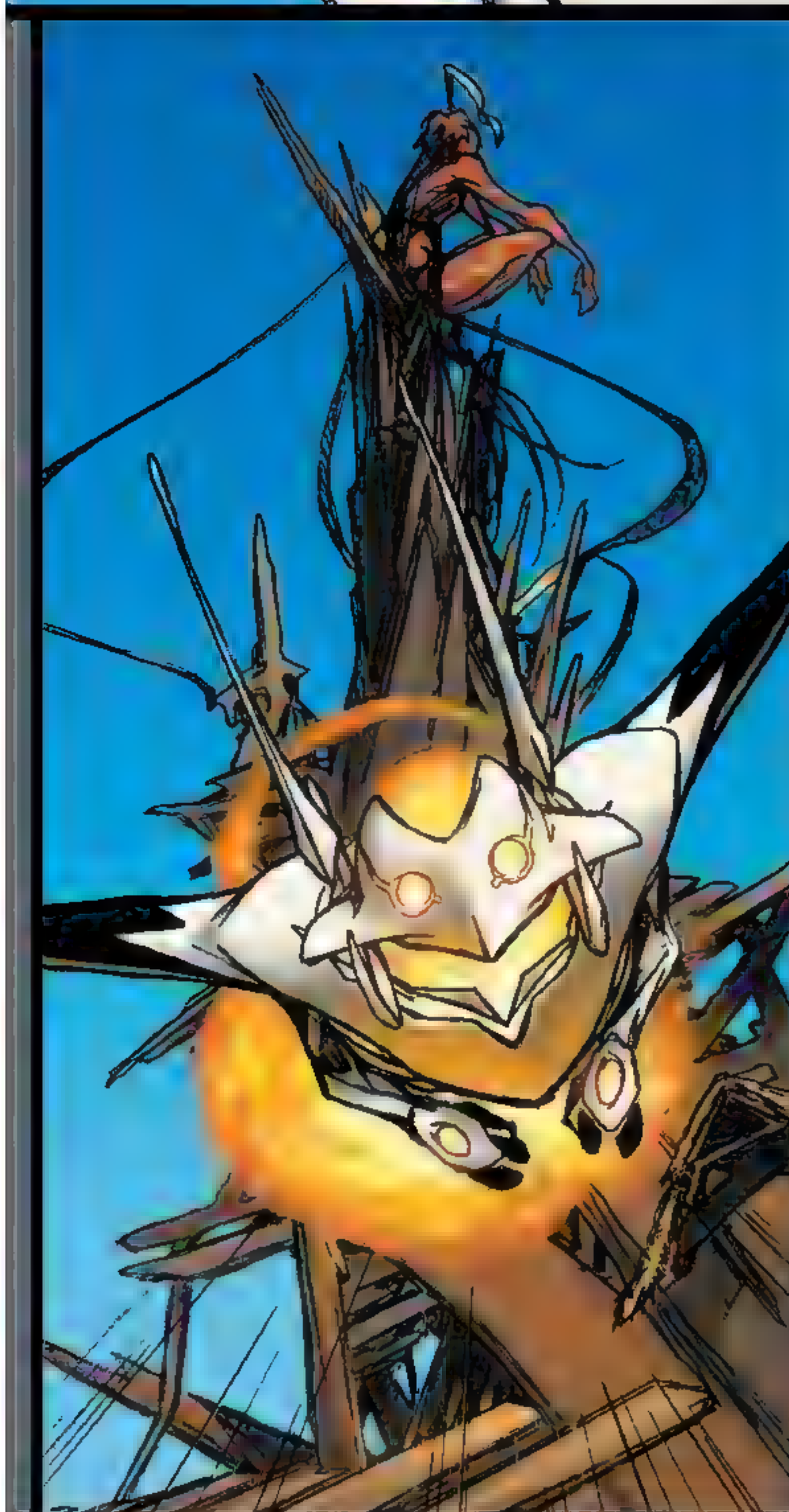


DOC...I  
WAS HER  
ONCE.

FRIGHTENED...  
ASHAMED...  
...DEADLY.



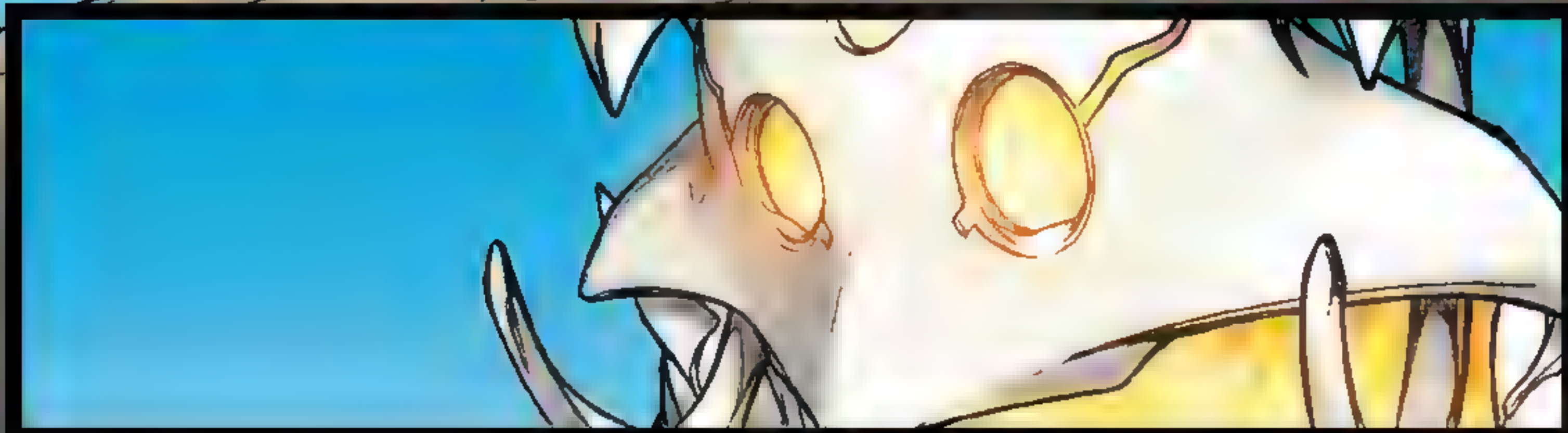
MAYBE  
SHE'LL LET  
ME HELP  
HER.



CHALK OFF  
THE ELEMENT  
OF SURPRISE.  
HERE WE GO  
AGAIN.

SHOULD  
WE MAKE THE  
FIRST MOV--

--WAIT.



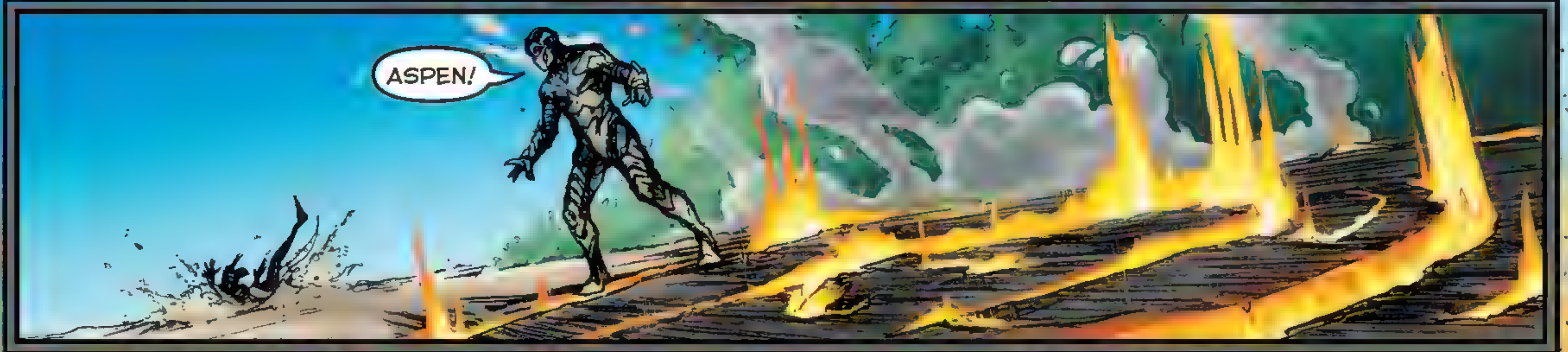
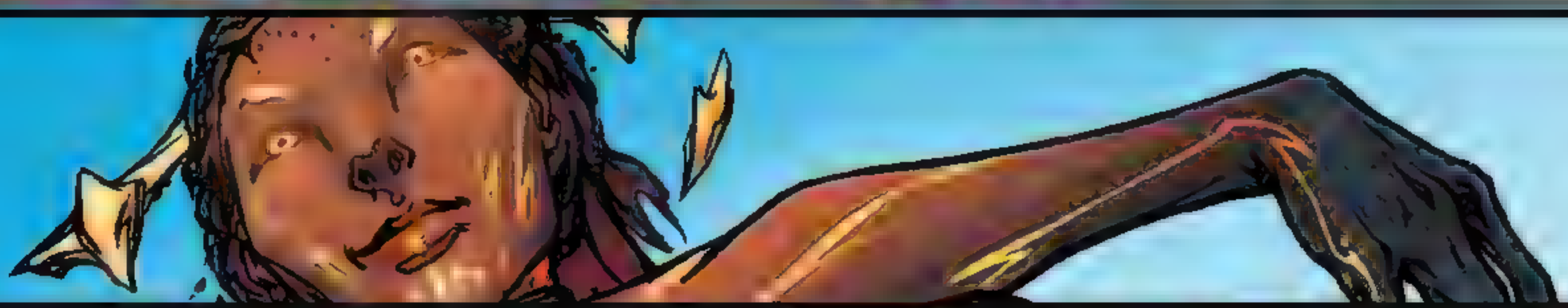




WHAT'S THIS..?



BRACE YOURSELF-- THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE GOOD.



ASPEN!



AND IT'S ABOUT TO GET WORSE, DOC...

THE ACTION CONTINUES IN FATHOM: THE CORE #2!



Vince HERNANDEZ | Alex KONAT | Mark ROSLAN | Peter STEIGERWALD | ZEN

MICHAEL TURNER'S  
**FATHOM**  
THE **GOORE**



COVER A

#**2**  
OF 2





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MICHAEL TURNER'S  
**FATHOM**  
THE **CORE**



aspen  
comics

Cover B

#**2**  
OF 2





# MICHAEL TURNER'S FATHOM THE CORE

writer

VINCE HERNANDEZ

pencils

ALEX KONAT

digital inks

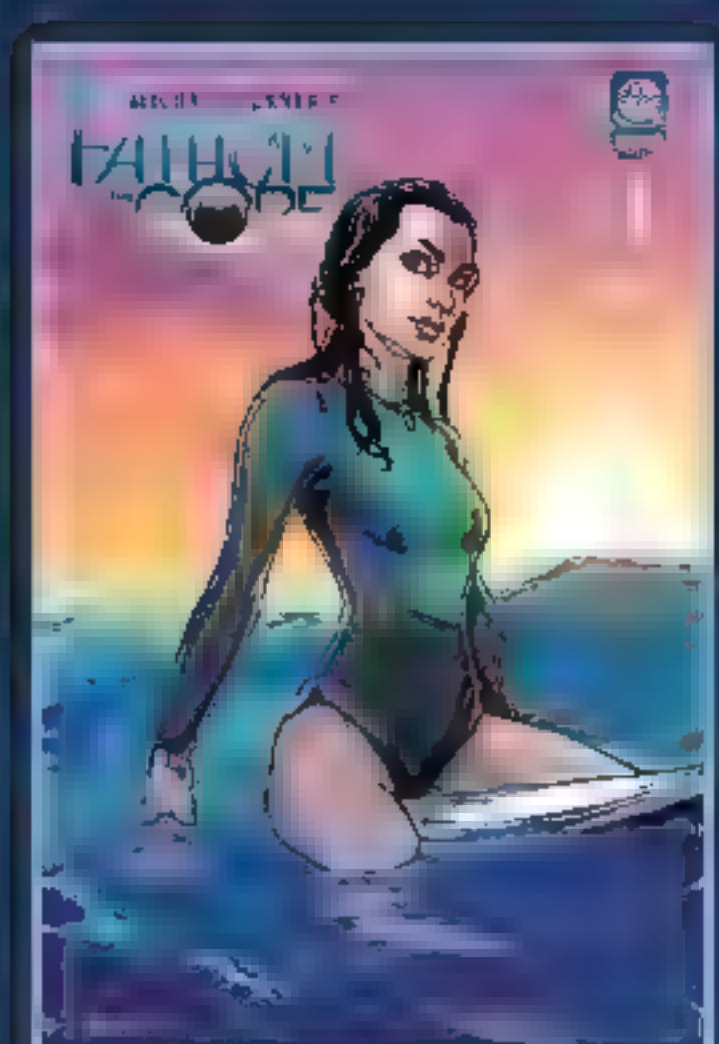
MARK ROSLAN

colors

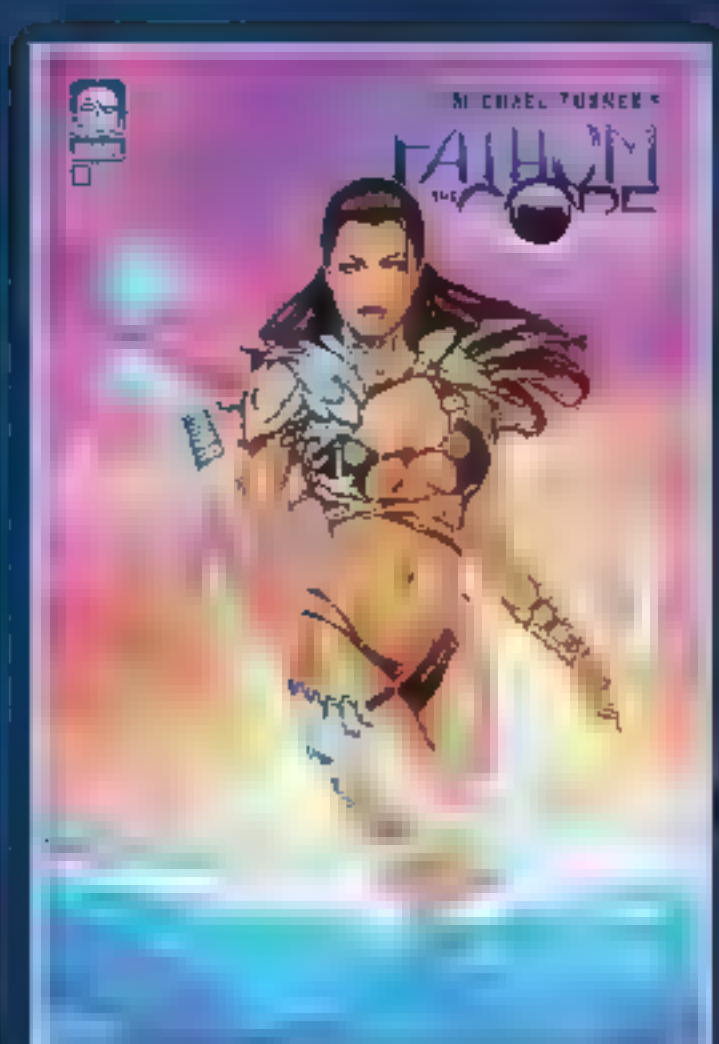
PETER STEIGERWALD

letters

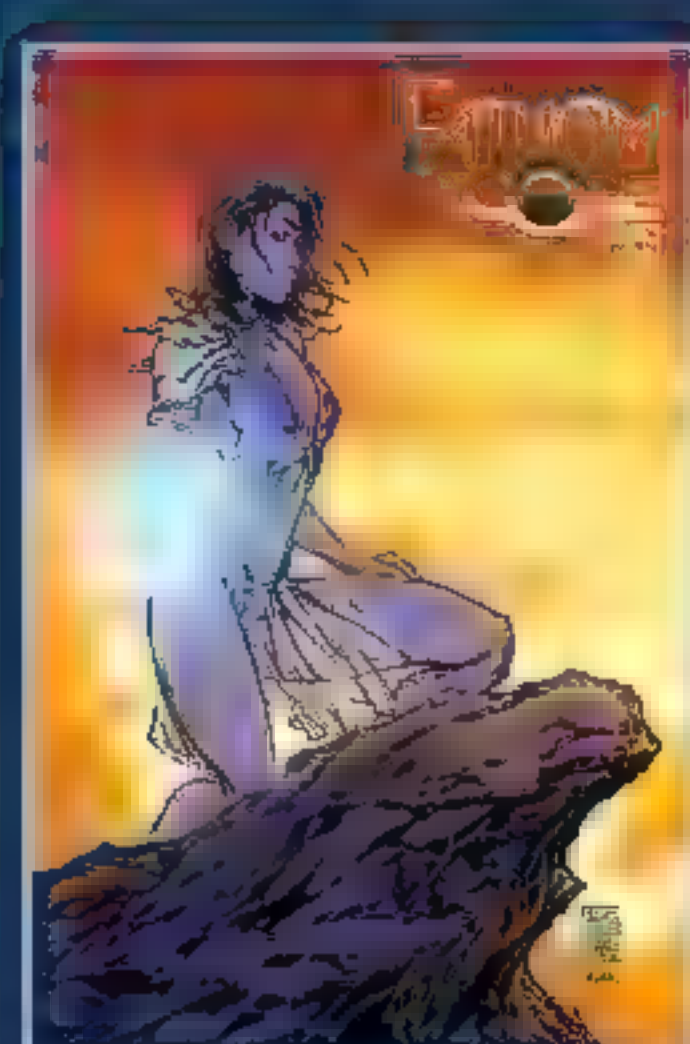
ZEN



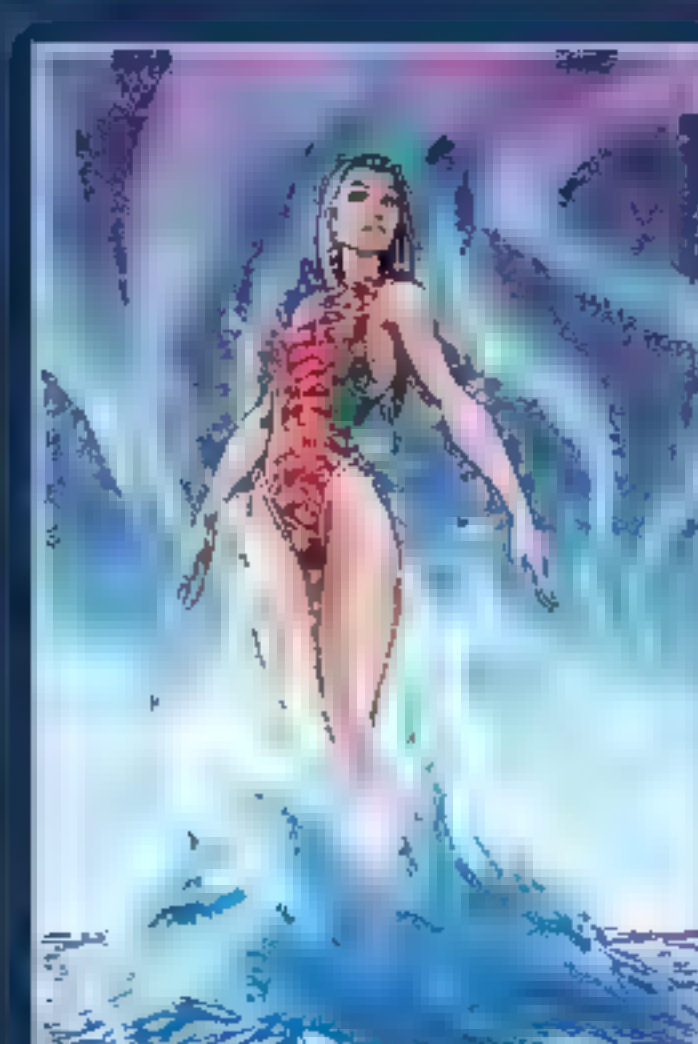
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& - MARK ROSLAN  
& - PETER STEIGERWALD



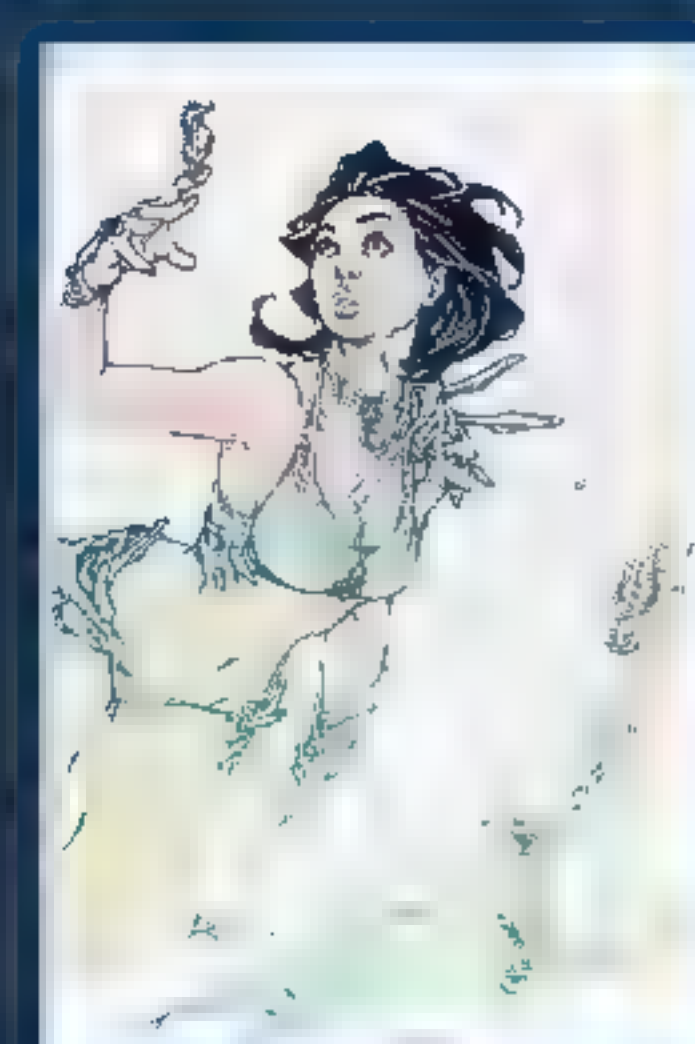
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DO YOU REMEMBER  
WHAT HAPPENED  
IN THE MOMENTS  
AFTER SHE ROSE  
FROM THE OCEAN?

ASPEN 2

I...

I...UH...

I REMEMBER  
IT LIKE NEEDLES  
ON MY BRAIN.

THE BLUE CAN UTILIZE THE  
ELECTRICAL CURRENTS OF  
THE WATER TO COMMUNICATE  
TELEPATHICALLY...BUT,  
THIS...THIS WAS DIFFERENT.

I COULD FEEL HER  
PRESENCE IN MY MIND,  
AS IF SHE COULD MOVE  
THE PIECES OF MY  
BEING AROUND AT WILL.

AND THEN SHE  
ACTUALLY DID IT.

I'VE NEVER FELT PAIN LIKE THAT BEFORE. YET,  
IT WASN'T JUST MY PHYSIOLOGY SHE WAS  
CONTORTING-- SHE WAS DEFUSING MY BRAIN  
MATTER. READING MY THOUGHTS. ANALYZING.

THANKFULLY, YOU WERE  
THERE TO PULL ME OUT  
OF MY UNCONSCIOUS  
STATE, OR I'D STILL BE  
SINKING TO THE BOTTOM  
OF THE SEA.

I MEAN, YEAH-- I GUESS SHE  
DIDN'T SEE ME AS MUCH OF  
A THREAT. KIND OF A BLOW  
TO THE OLD SELF ESTEEM,  
BUT IN THIS INSTANCE I'M  
NOT COMPLAINING.

MY CONCERN IS...  
WHAT IS THAT  
THREAT EXACTLY?

BUT, HERE'S THE  
THING, DOC...

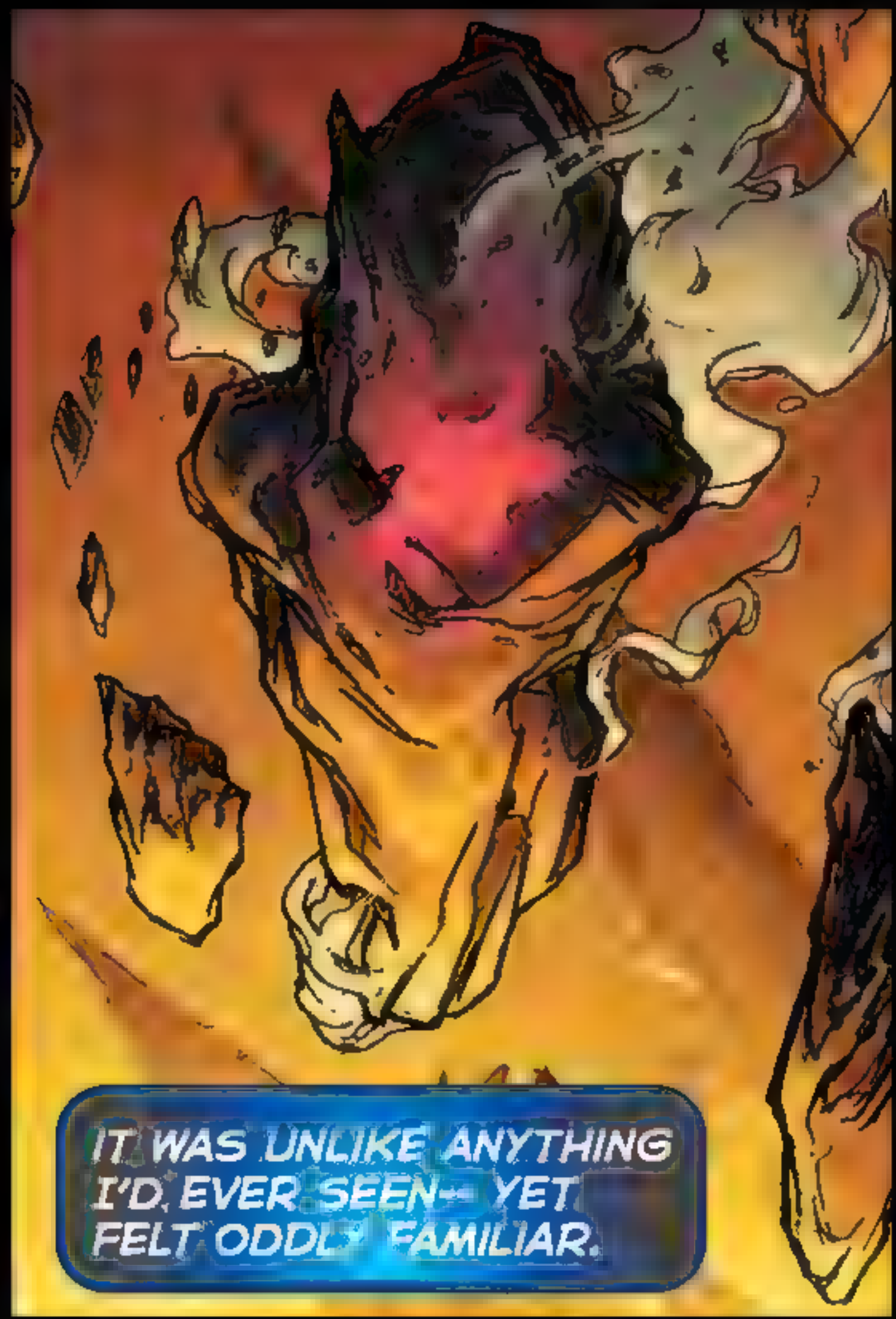
NOT ONLY  
COULD I FEEL  
HER PRESENCE  
IN MY MIND...



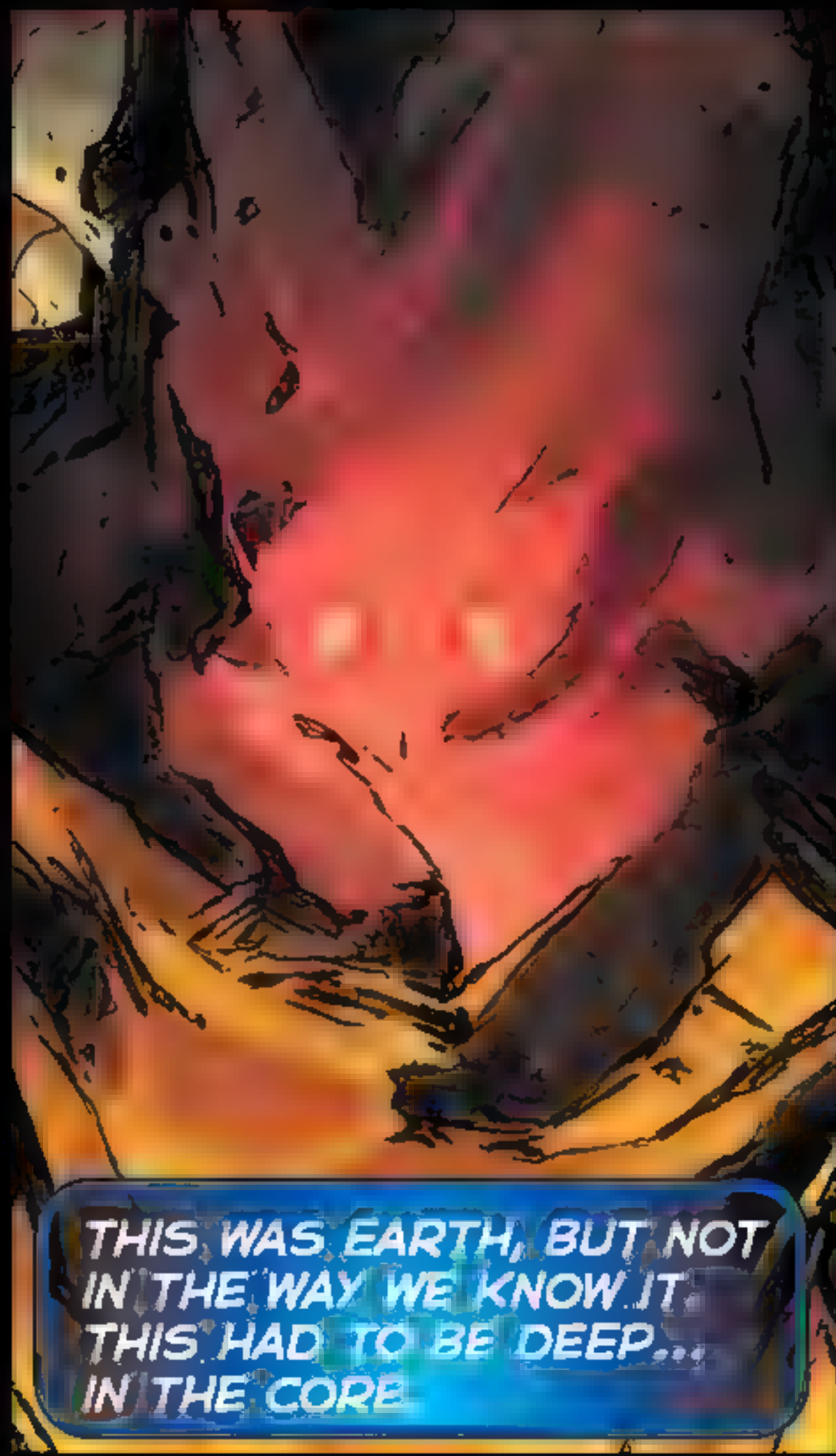




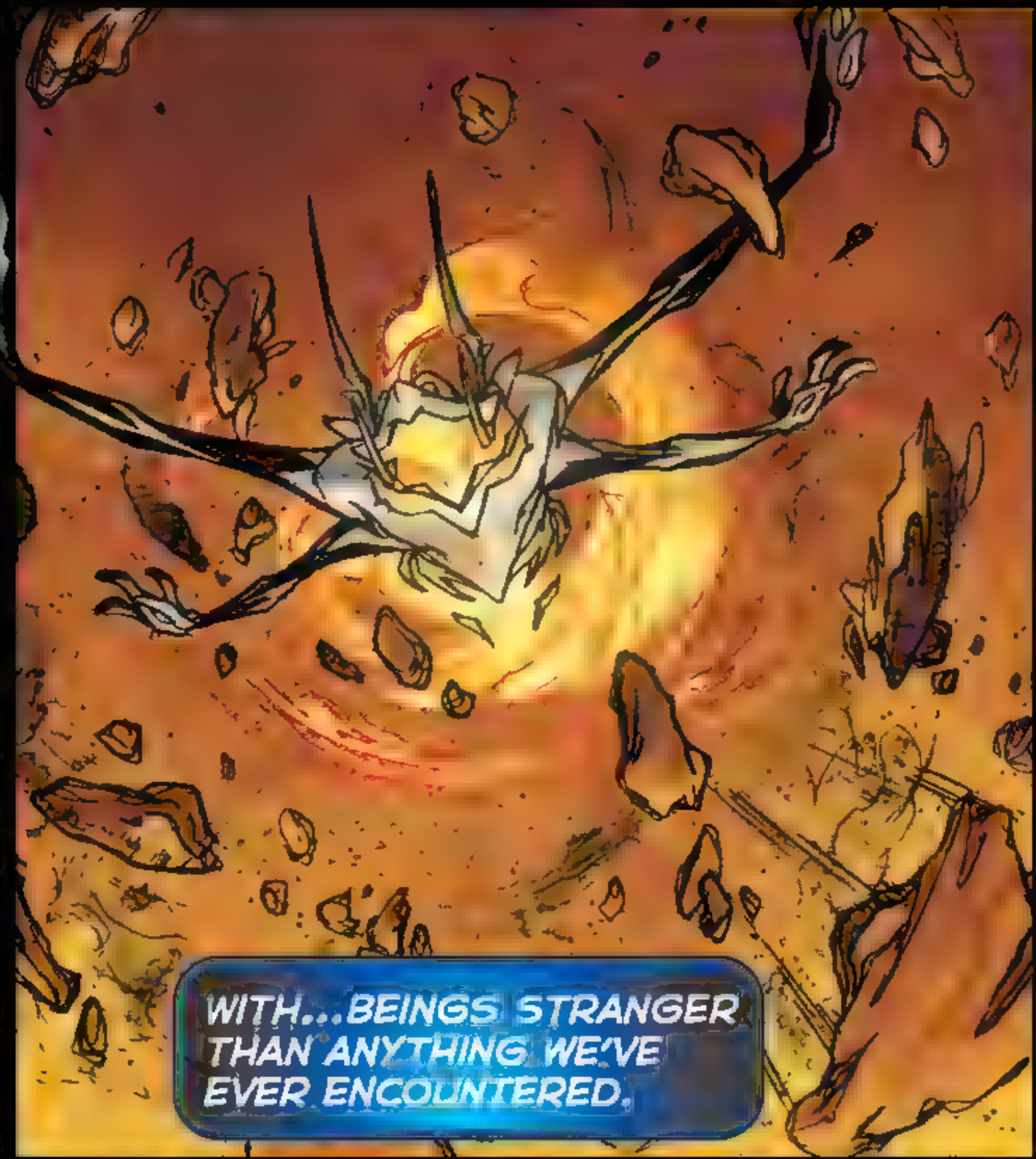
BUT, I WAS  
IN HER.



IT WAS UNLIKE ANYTHING  
I'D EVER SEEN— YET  
FELT ODDLY FAMILIAR.



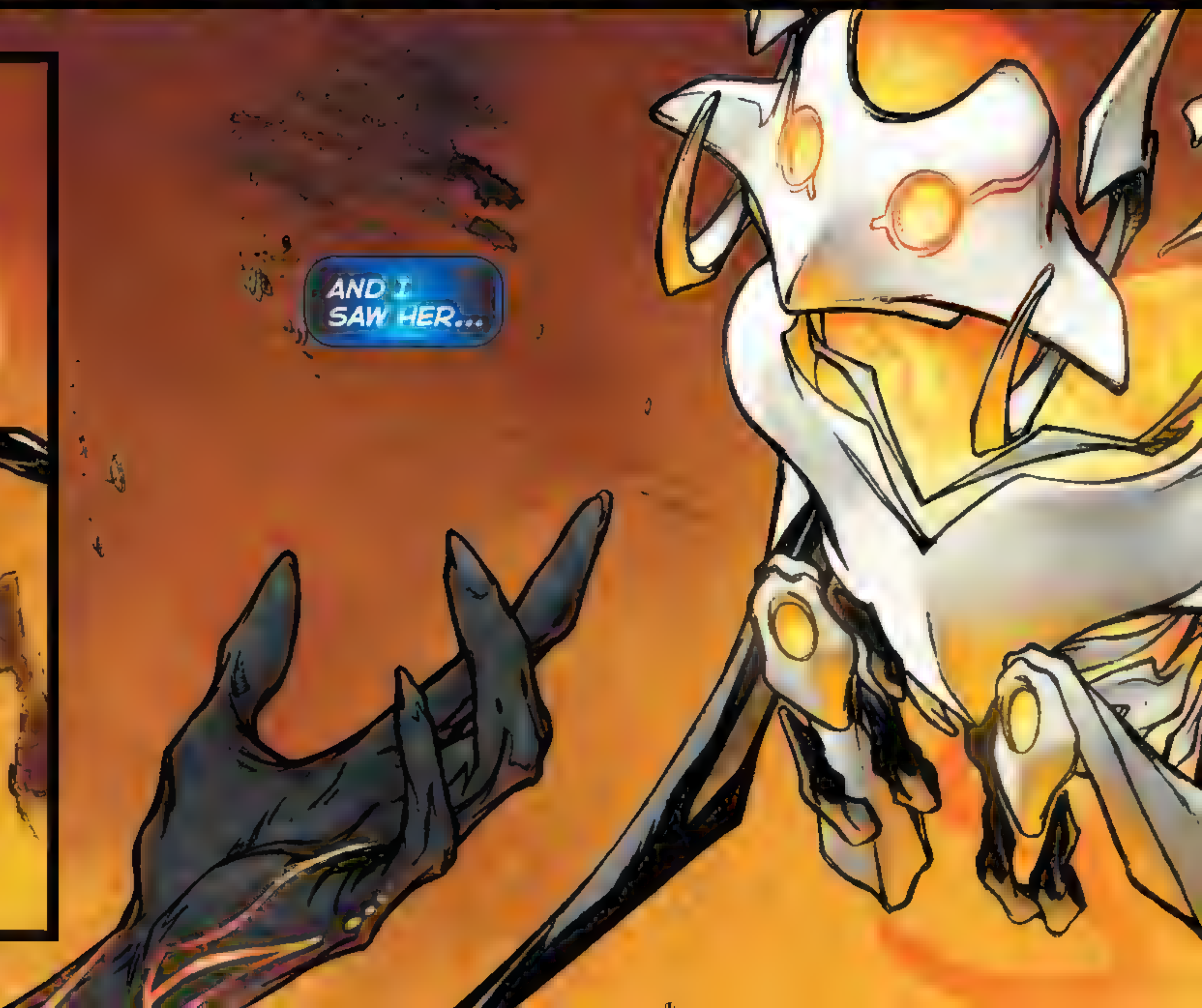
THIS WAS EARTH, BUT NOT  
IN THE WAY WE KNOW IT.  
THIS HAD TO BE DEEP...  
IN THE CORE.



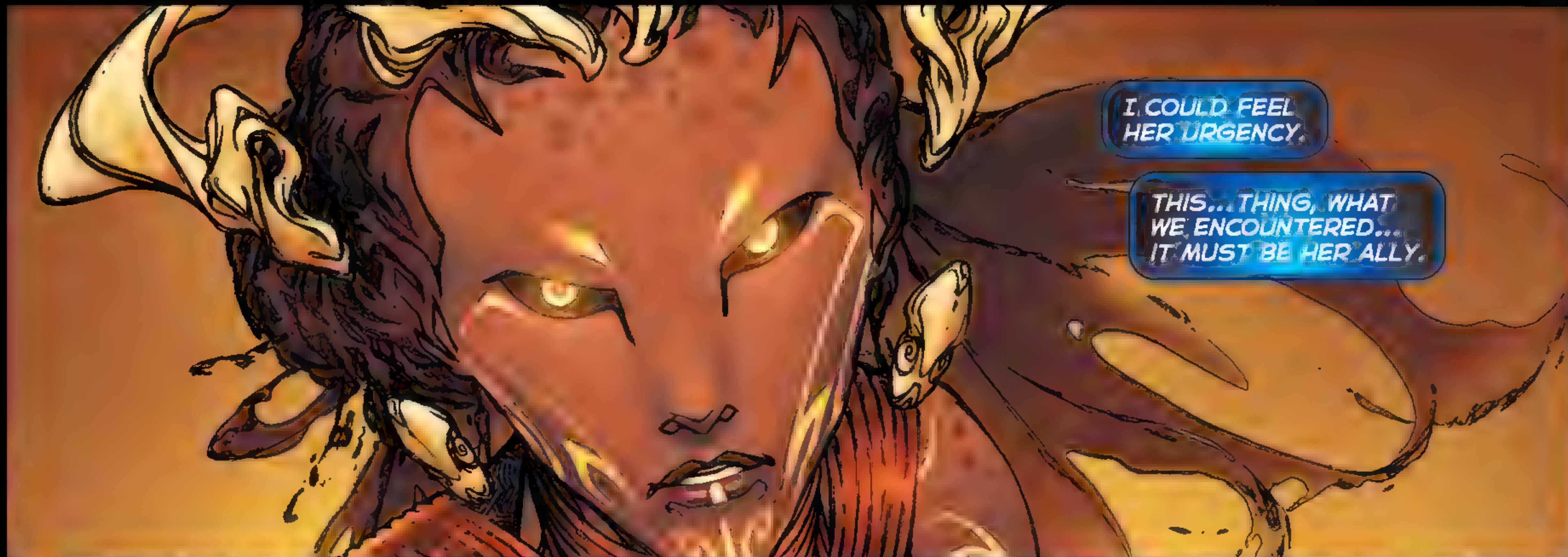
WITH...BEINGS STRANGER  
THAN ANYTHING WE'VE  
EVER ENCOUNTERED.



AND I  
SAW HER...





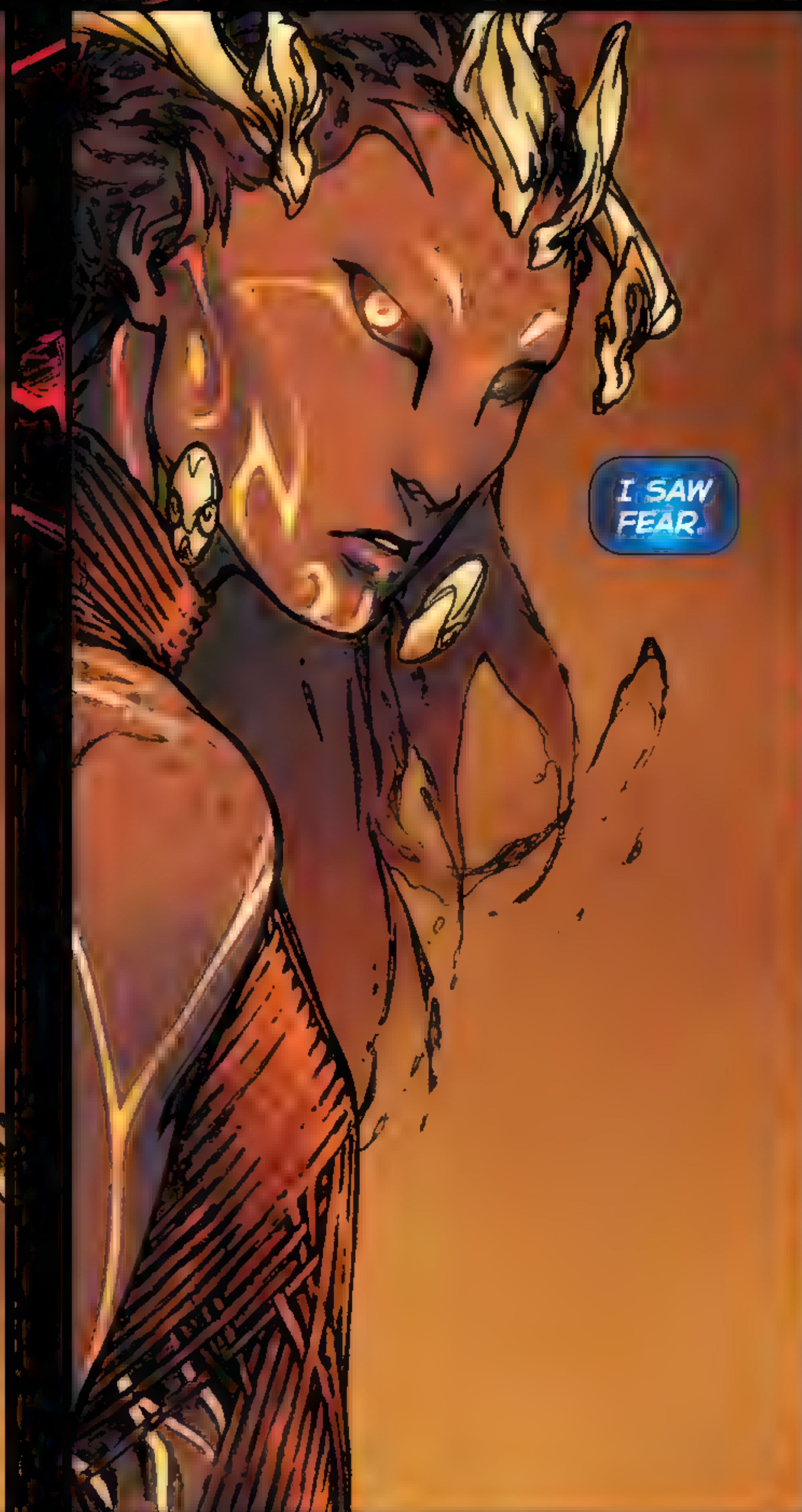
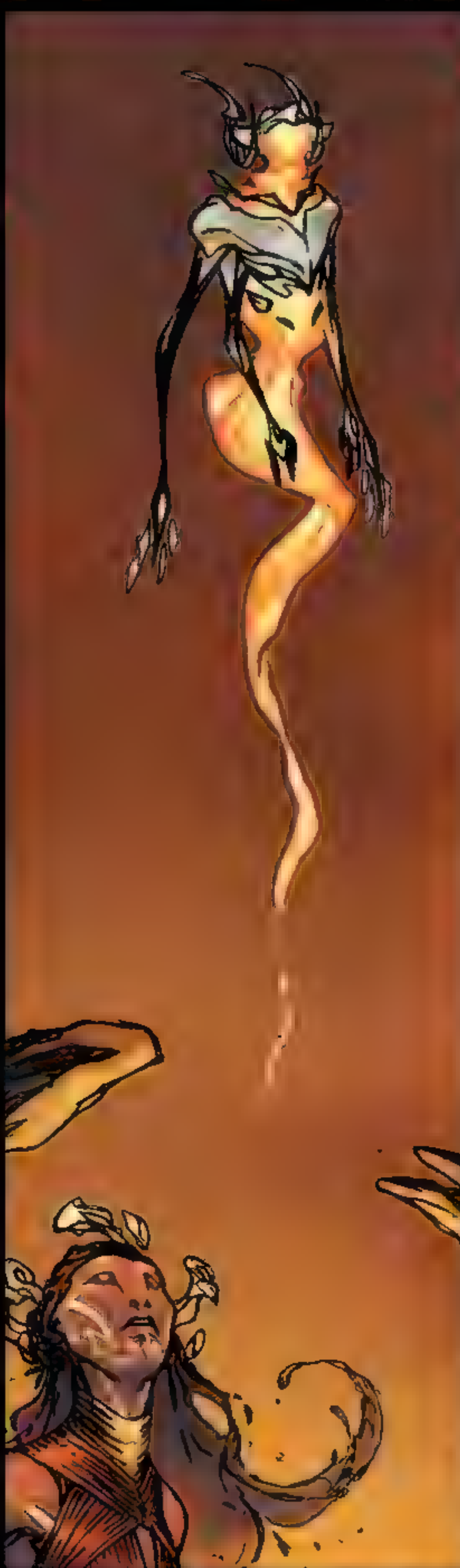


I COULD FEEL  
HER URGENCY.

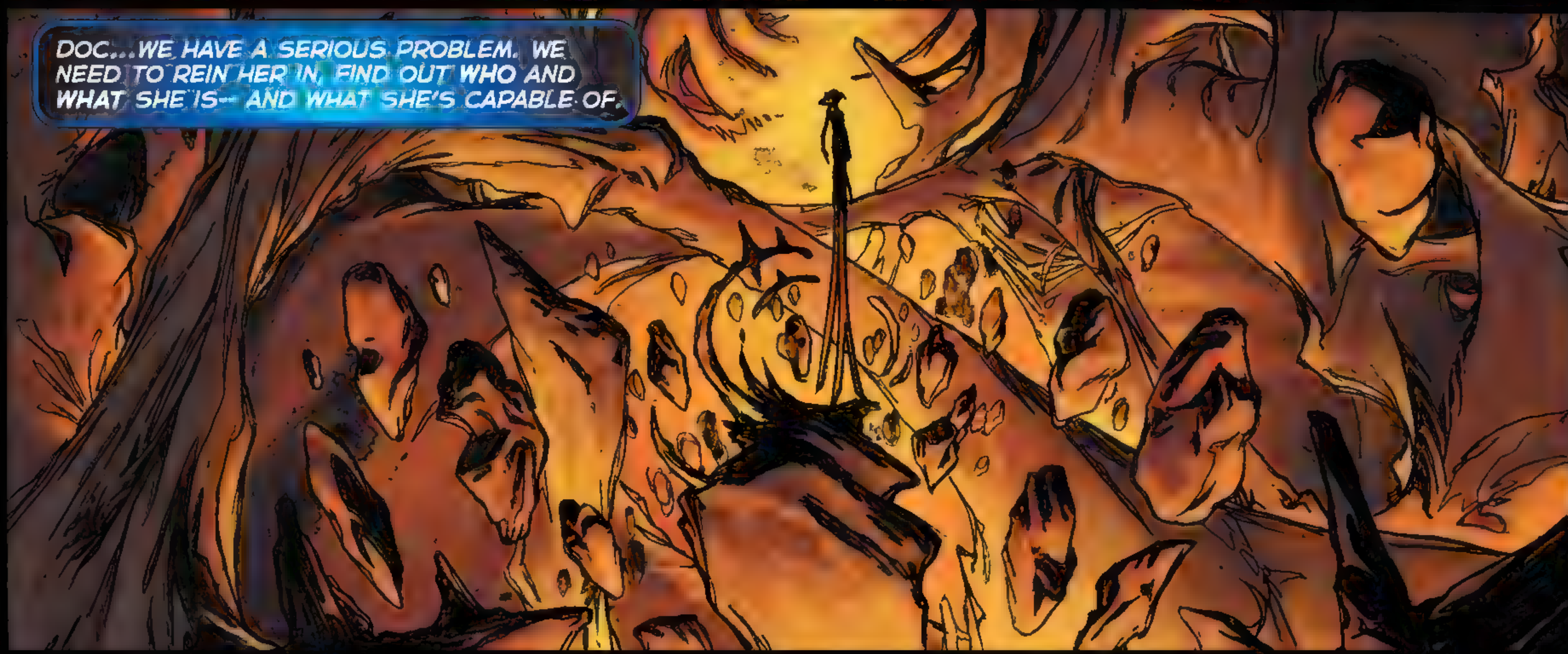
THIS... THING, WHAT  
WE ENCOUNTERED...  
IT MUST BE HER ALLY.



I ALSO SAW  
HER ENEMIES.



I SAW  
FEAR.



DOC...WE HAVE A SERIOUS PROBLEM. WE  
NEED TO REIN HER IN, FIND OUT WHO AND  
WHAT SHE IS-- AND WHAT SHE'S CAPABLE OF.





WE CAN'T ALLOW SOMEONE THAT POWERFUL TO ROAM FREE IN OUR WORLD.

WE'LL SEE THAT'S THE THING-- YOU KINDA WERE OUT FOR ABOUT TWELVE HOURS. SHE COULD BE ANYWHERE AT THIS POINT.

TELL ME YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS. WITH THAT MUCH TIME THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MUCH DESTRUCTION THEY COULD CAUSE.



ON THE PLUS SIDE, THAT'S ABOUT ALL I NEEDED TO...UH... CHECK YOUR DIMENSIONS.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

RELAX, I WOULD NEVER VIOLATE ANOTHER HUMAN BEING LIKE THAT, THANK YOU FOR ASSUMING THE WORST, THOUGH.

LET ALONE SOMEONE THAT CAN RIP EVERY FIBER FROM MY BEING.



BUT, NO-- I JUST NEEDED TO CHECK YOUR TAGS, SO TO SPEAK. COME, CHECK THIS OUT.

THIS IS YOUR LAB?

AND HOME. I DON'T GET OUT MUCH SO DON'T HOLD THE DÉCOR AGAINST ME.

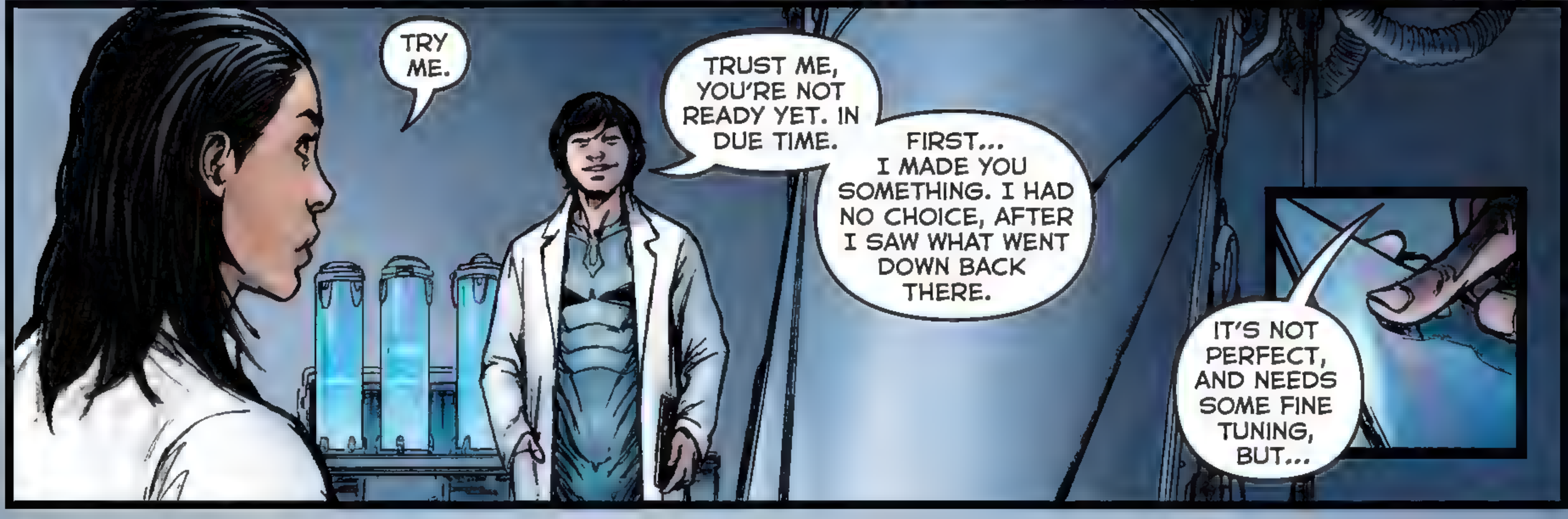
I...ACTUALLY KINDA LOVE IT. SO MANY COOL GADGETS AND EXPERIMENTS.

I LIVE TO EXIST IN A LABORATORY. IT'S...MY CALLING.



WHAT'S THIS? BEYOND THE OBVIOUS.

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU.



TRY ME.

TRUST ME, YOU'RE NOT READY YET. IN DUE TIME.

FIRST... I MADE YOU SOMETHING. I HAD NO CHOICE, AFTER I SAW WHAT WENT DOWN BACK THERE.

IT'S NOT PERFECT, AND NEEDS SOME FINE TUNING, BUT...







IT'S A GIFT.  
THE STEAM  
IS COMPLETELY  
UNNECESSARY  
AND ADDED  
FOR EFFECT.

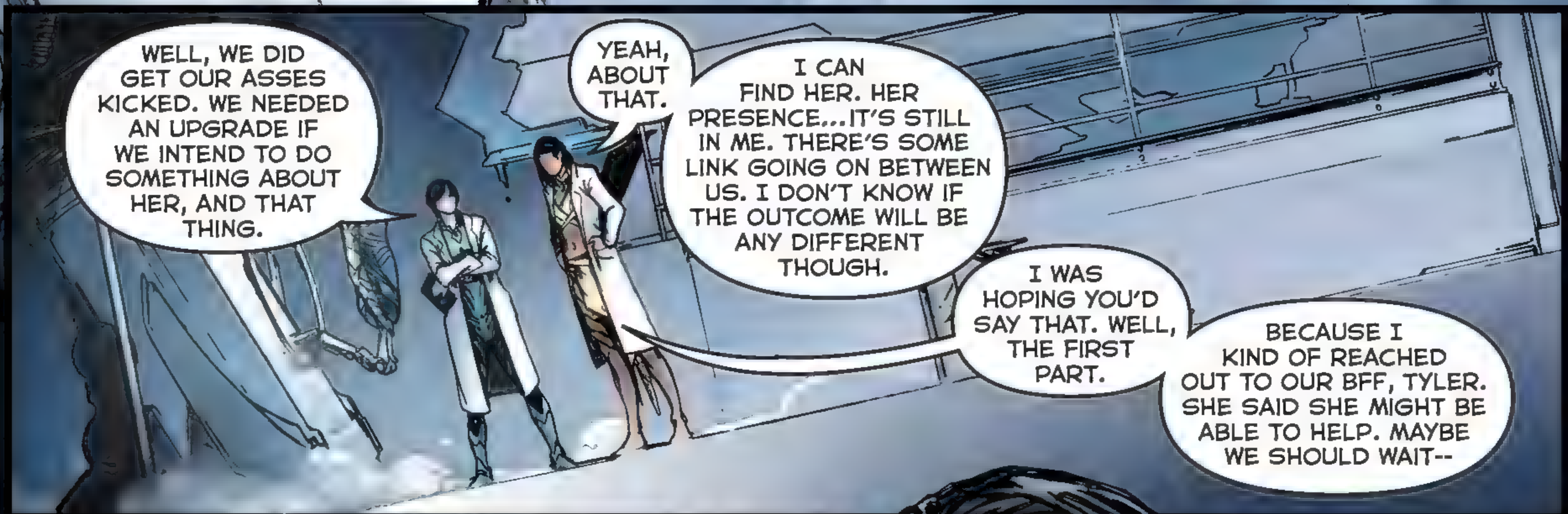
MY NANOTECH IS  
NOT THE FIRST BUT MY  
PROTOTYPE IS PROPRIETARY,  
BUT SEEING AS HOW I DON'T  
ACTUALLY HAVE A LAWYER ON  
RETAINER, WE'LL CALL THIS  
A LOANER TO AVOID  
ANY LEGALESE.



YOU KNOW  
I CAN TURN  
INTO WATER  
ON A WHIM,  
RIGHT?

YEAH, YEAH,  
BIG TIME, WE  
ALL KNOW, BUT  
I ADDED SOME  
FUN FEATURES.  
JUST WAIT  
AND SEE.

HMM...I  
NORMALLY DON'T  
ALLOW ANYONE  
TO CHOOSE MY  
OUTFITS, BUT YOU  
SAVED MY LIFE  
BACK THERE...  
THANKS.



WELL, WE DID  
GET OUR ASSES  
KICKED. WE NEEDED  
AN UPGRADE IF  
WE INTEND TO DO  
SOMETHING ABOUT  
HER, AND THAT  
THING.

YEAH,  
ABOUT  
THAT.

I CAN  
FIND HER. HER  
PRESENCE...IT'S STILL  
IN ME. THERE'S SOME  
LINK GOING ON BETWEEN  
US. I DON'T KNOW IF  
THE OUTCOME WILL BE  
ANY DIFFERENT  
THOUGH.

I WAS  
HOPING YOU'D  
SAY THAT. WELL,  
THE FIRST  
PART.

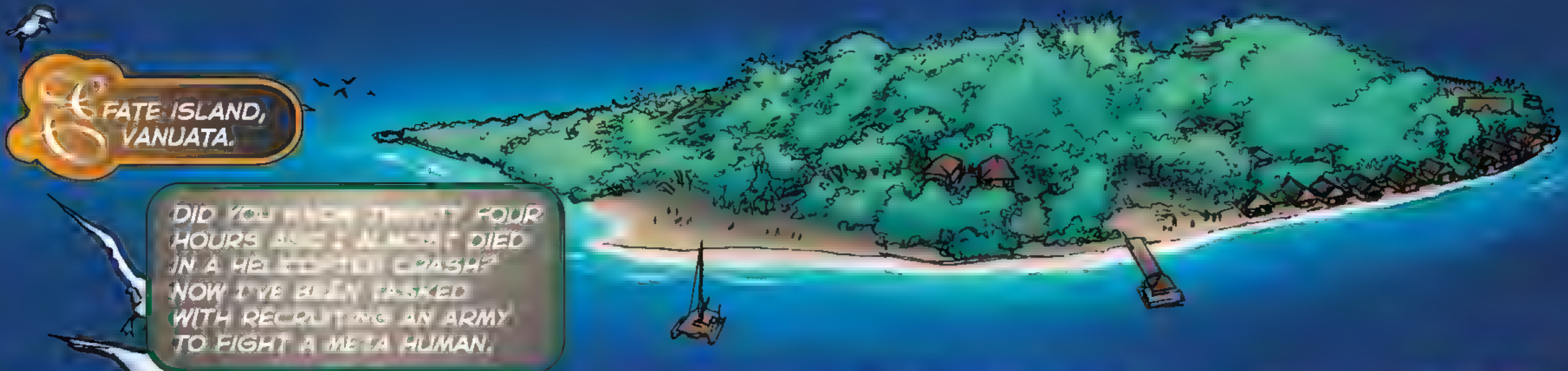
BECAUSE I  
KIND OF REACHED  
OUT TO OUR BFF, TYLER.  
SHE SAID SHE MIGHT BE  
ABLE TO HELP. MAYBE  
WE SHOULD WAIT--



--I HOPE  
YOU'RE RIGHT,  
DOC. BUT, I CAN'T  
PUT HER IN DANGER  
LIKE THAT. TYLER'S  
THE BEST KIND OF  
FRIEND, BUT I'VE PUT  
HER IN HARM'S WAY  
FAR TOO MANY  
TIMES.

I CAN'T  
STOP *YOU* FROM  
JOINING ME, BUT  
I *AM* GOING TO  
FIND HER.





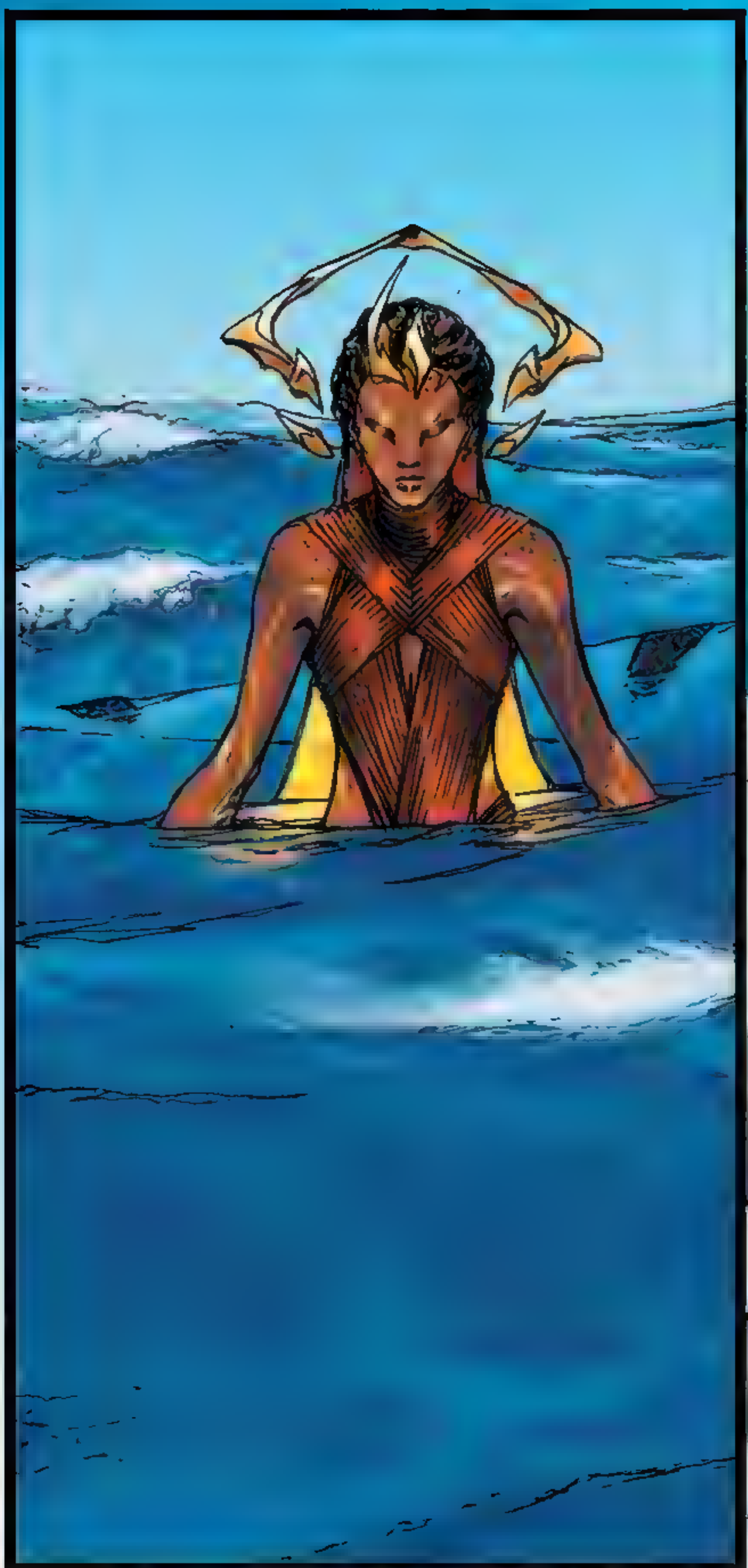
FATE ISLAND,  
VANUATA.

DID YOU KNOW THIRTY-FOUR  
HOURS AGO I ALMOST DIED  
IN A HELICOPTER CRASH?  
NOW I'VE BEEN TASKED  
WITH RECRUITING AN ARMY  
TO FIGHT A META HUMAN.

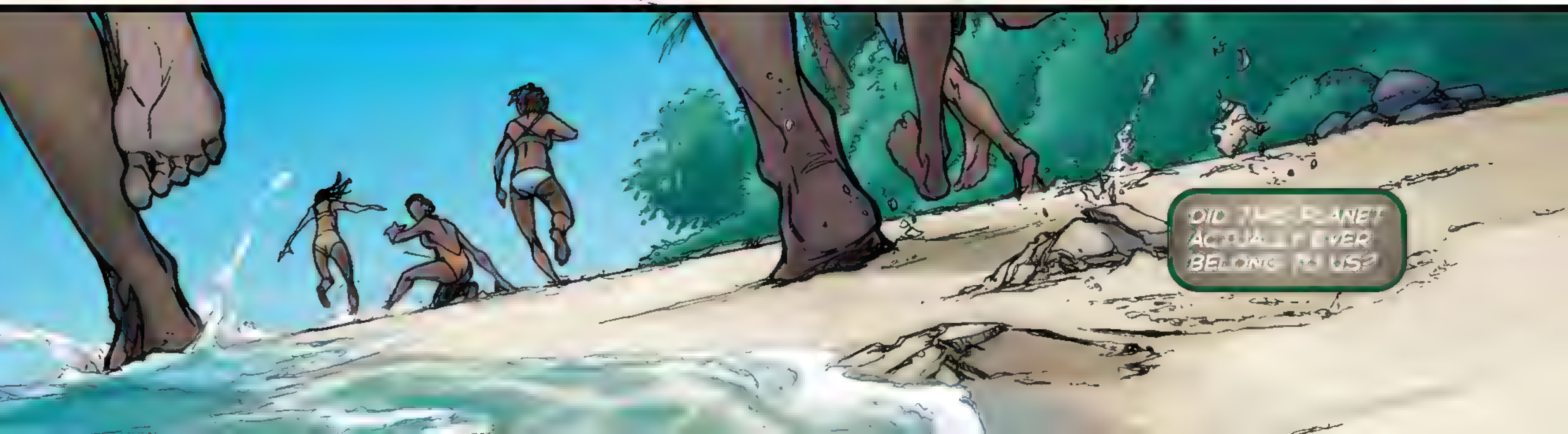


OKAY, THAT  
MIGHT BE  
DRAMATIC...

WELL, EXCEPT FOR THE META HUMAN  
PART, I ONCE THOUGHT MY FRIEND  
ASPEN WAS THE STRONGEST THING  
ON THIS PLANET.



NOT EVEN  
MY  
WONDERING...



DID THE PLANET  
ACTUALLY EVER  
BELONG TO US?



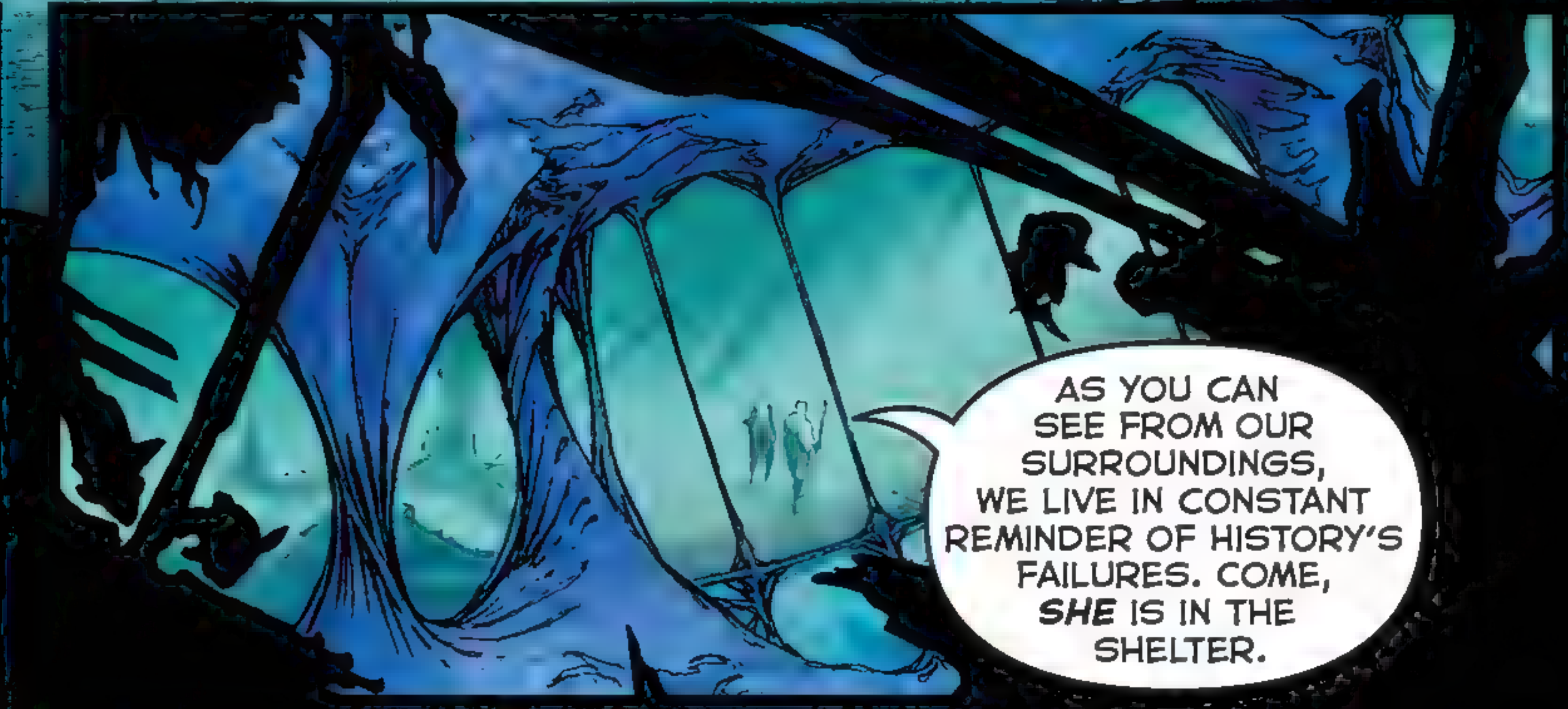


I GUESS FOR YOU THAT'S THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK, HUH?

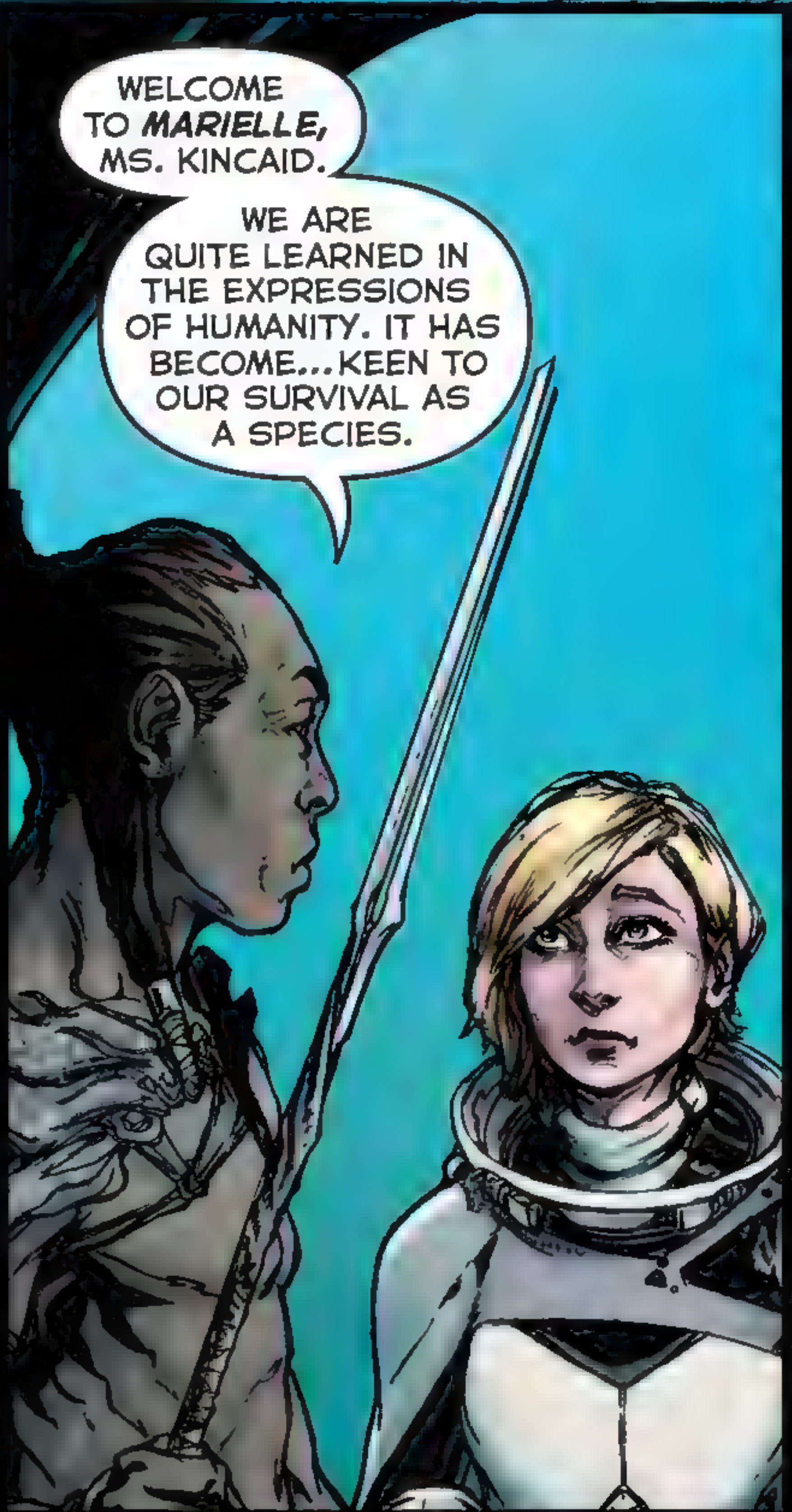
MY BAD. THAT'S A HUMAN THING, EXPRESSION-- WHATEVER.

WELCOME TO **MARIELLE**, MS. KINCAID.

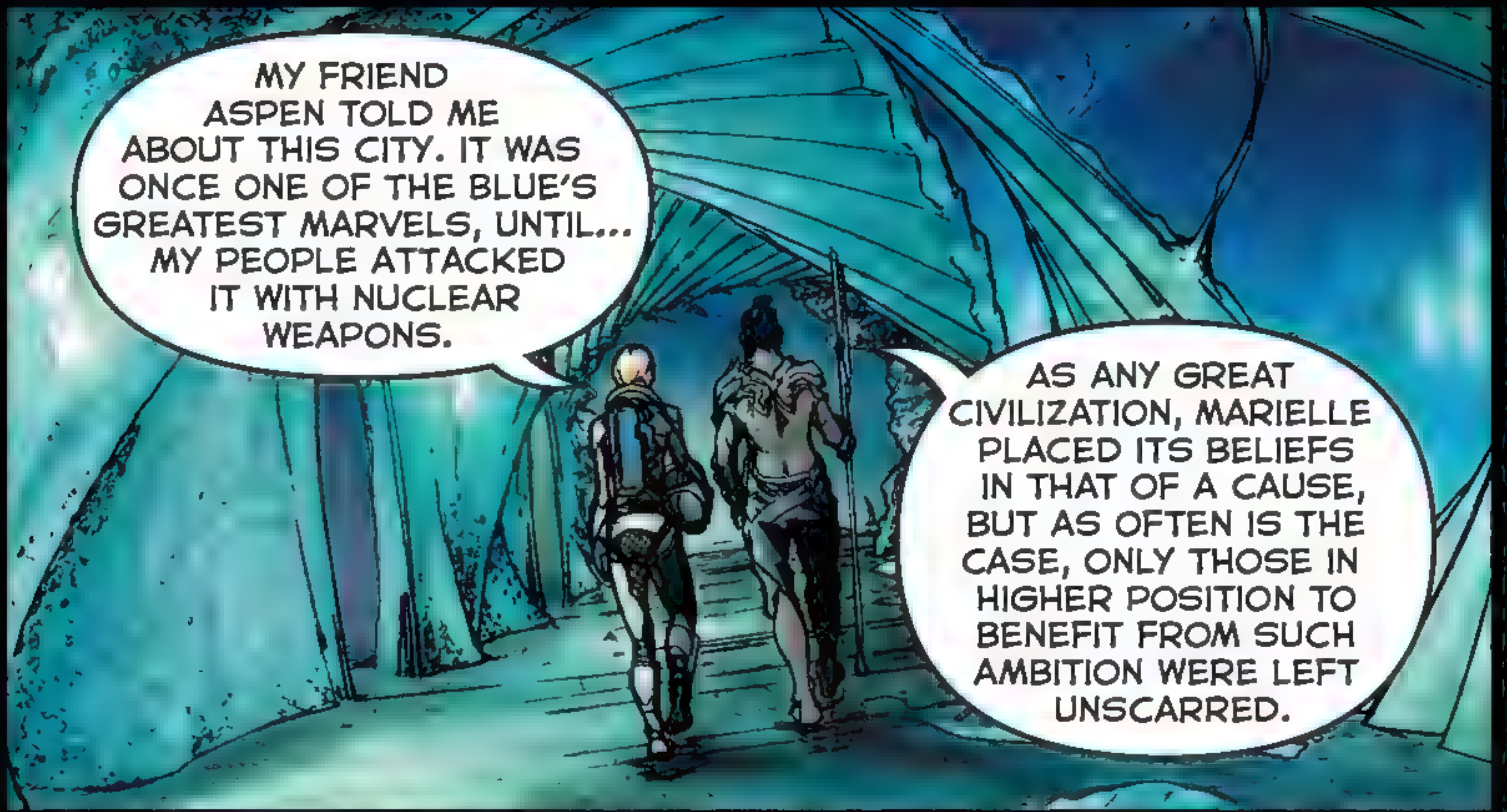
WE ARE QUITE LEARNED IN THE EXPRESSIONS OF HUMANITY. IT HAS BECOME...KEEN TO OUR SURVIVAL AS A SPECIES.



AS YOU CAN SEE FROM OUR SURROUNDINGS, WE LIVE IN CONSTANT REMINDER OF HISTORY'S FAILURES. COME, **SHE** IS IN THE SHELTER.



MY FRIEND ASPEN TOLD ME ABOUT THIS CITY. IT WAS ONCE ONE OF THE BLUE'S GREATEST MARVELS, UNTIL... MY PEOPLE ATTACKED IT WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS.



AS ANY GREAT CIVILIZATION, MARIELLE PLACED ITS BELIEFS IN THAT OF A CAUSE, BUT AS OFTEN IS THE CASE, ONLY THOSE IN HIGHER POSITION TO BENEFIT FROM SUCH AMBITION WERE LEFT UNSCARRED.



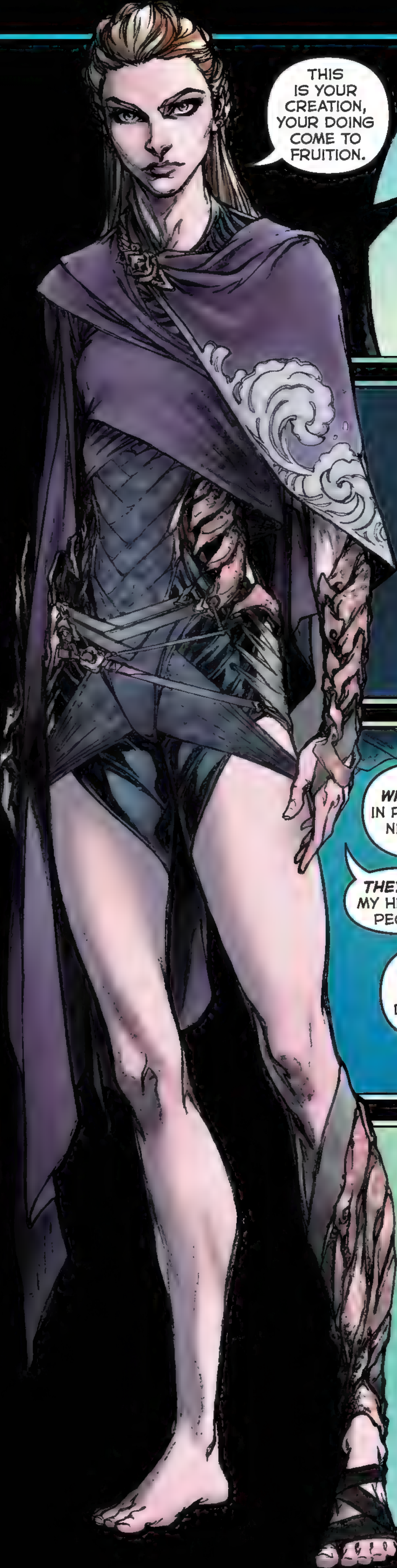
WHAT REMAINED WAS A CITY TO SUFFER...

AND ITS PEOPLE TO STARVE.

DO NOT LOOK AWAY...





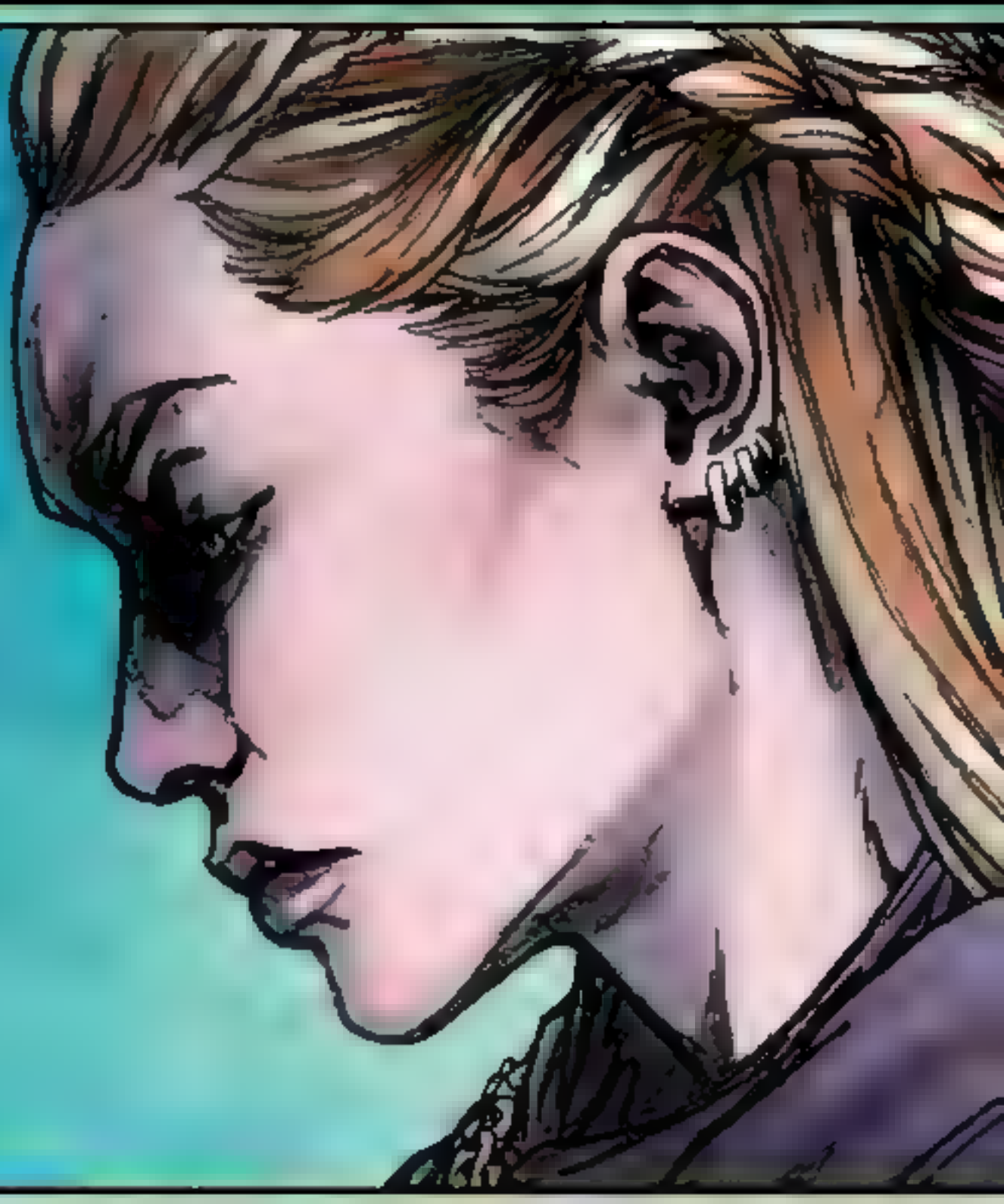


THIS  
IS YOUR  
CREATION,  
YOUR DOING  
COME TO  
FRUITION.



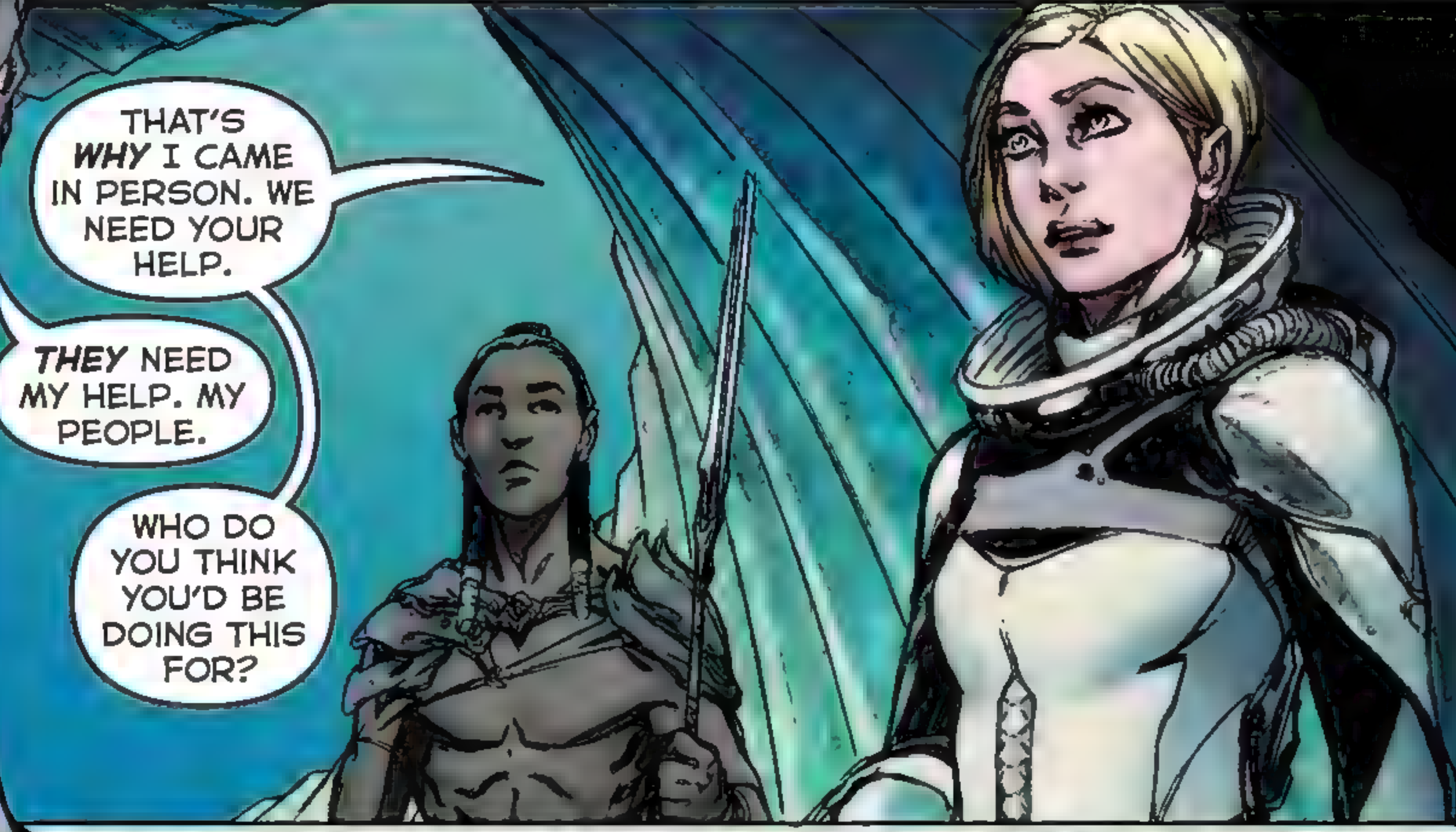
KIANI.

ASPEN  
HAS TOLD ME  
MANY THINGS  
ABOUT YOU.



I AM  
SURE.

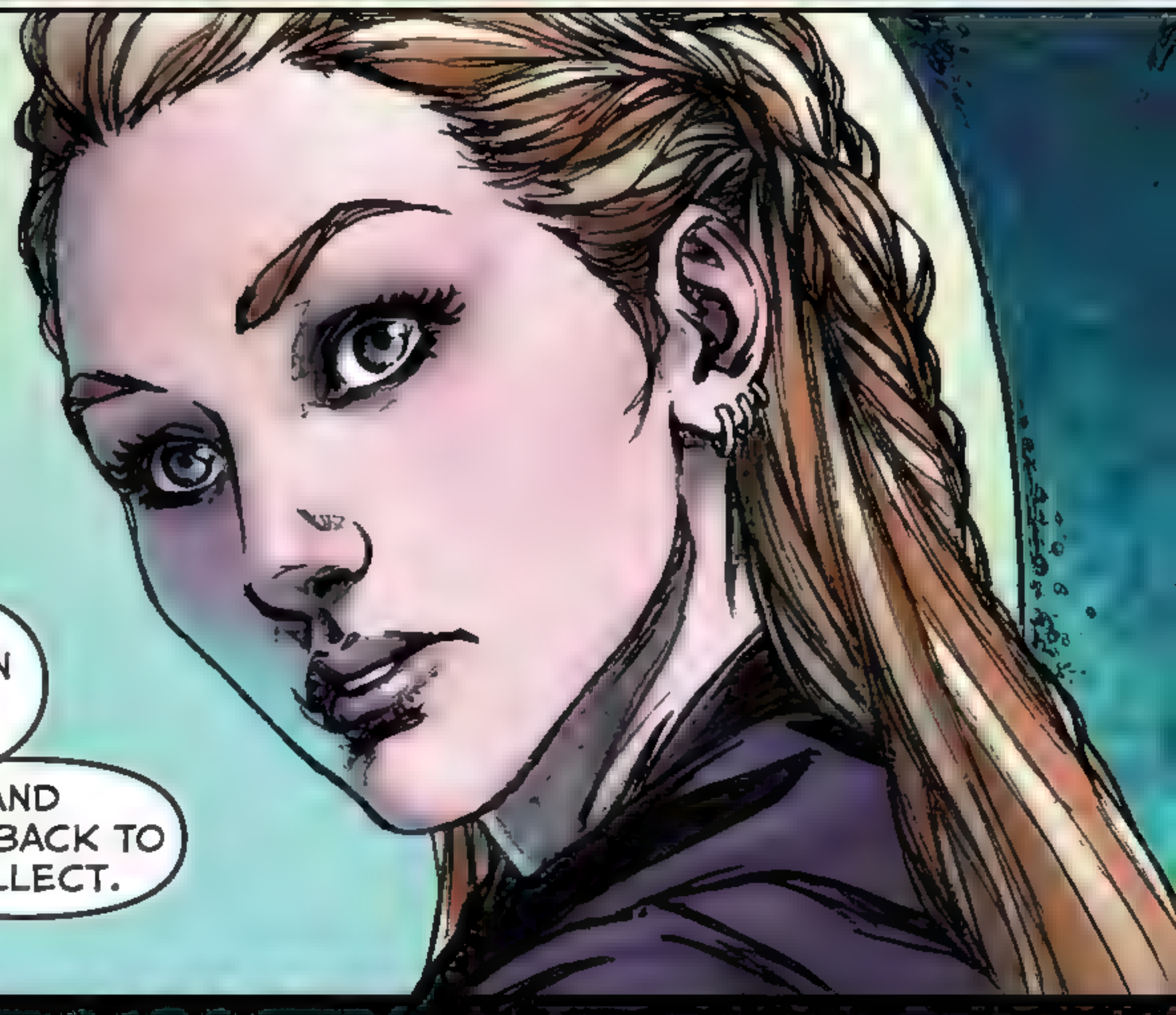
YOU SHOULD NOT  
HAVE COME, ALTHOUGH  
I PRESUME SHE SENT YOU.  
THE WATER BUZZES SO MUCH ONE  
CAN HARDLY KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE  
ANY MORE. BUT THOSE OF US WITH  
ELITE BLOOD CAN SEE *HER*.  
THIS NEW BEING WILL BE  
OUR UNDOING.



THAT'S  
*WHY* I CAME  
IN PERSON. WE  
NEED YOUR  
HELP.

*THEY* NEED  
MY HELP. MY  
PEOPLE.

WHO DO  
YOU THINK  
YOU'D BE  
DOING THIS  
FOR?



I DON'T  
OWE ASPEN  
ANYTHING...  
I'M SORRY.

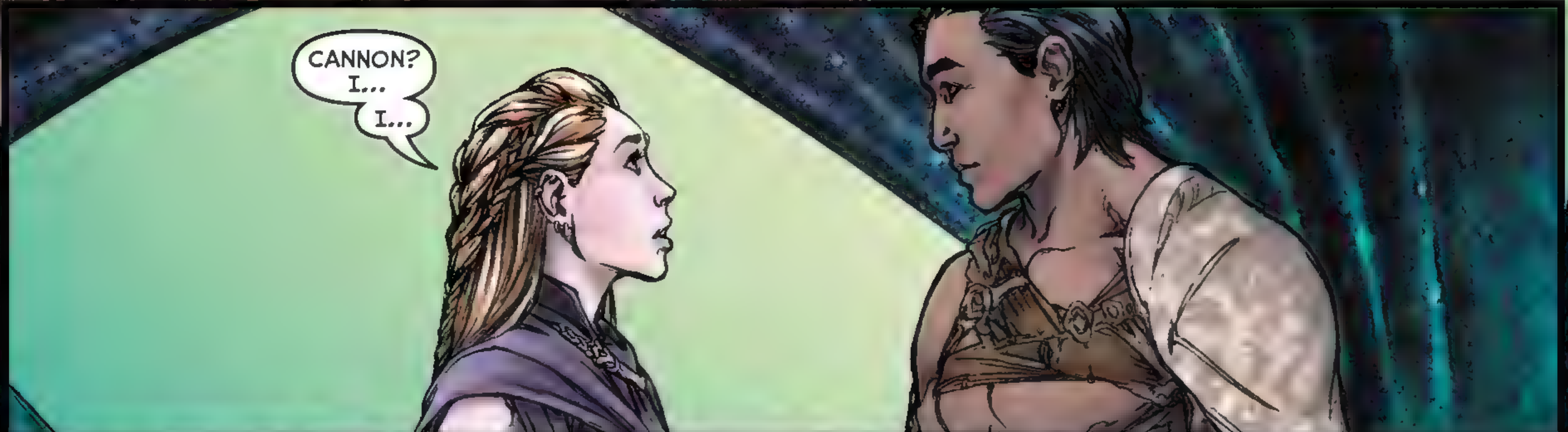
BUT YOU DO  
OWE A CERTAIN  
SOMEONE...  
BIG TIME...

...AND  
HE'S BACK TO  
COLLECT.





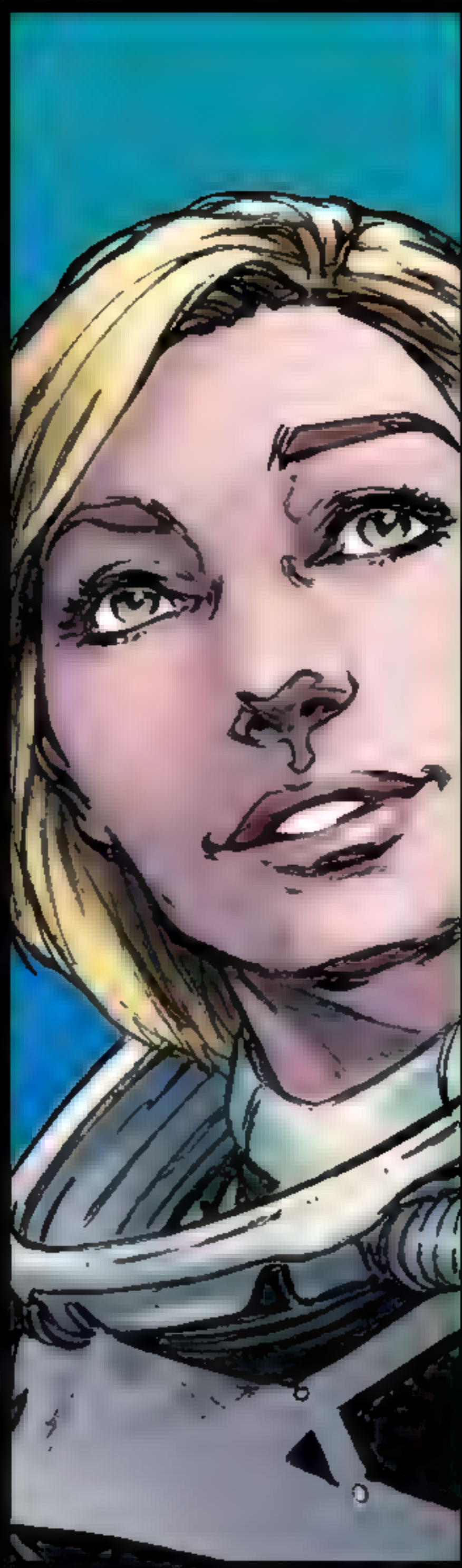
CANNON?!



CANNON?  
I...  
I...



I FORGIVE  
YOU.



AND  
SHE'S RIGHT.  
WE HAVE BOTH  
PAID OUR DUES  
IN DEATH.

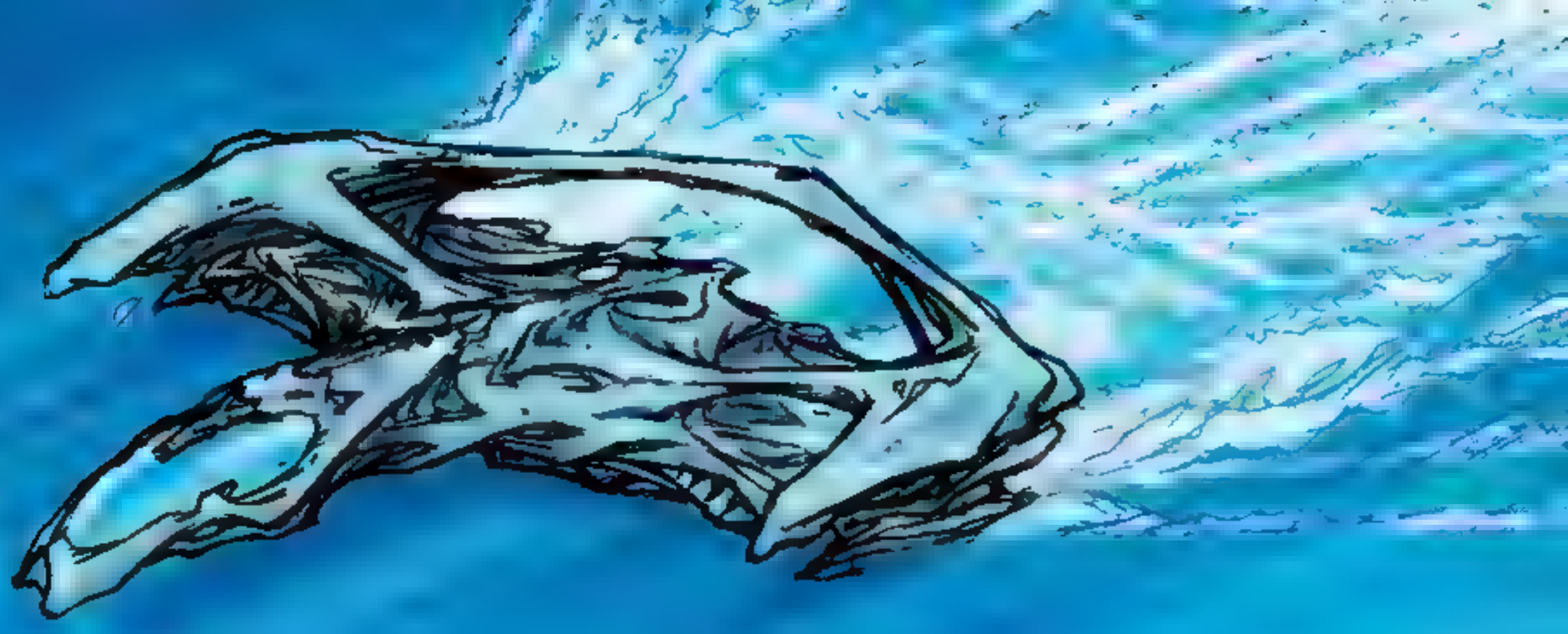
BUT WE  
CANNOT ALLOW  
THE INEVITABLE  
TO COME TO  
OUR PEOPLE  
AS WELL.

YOU  
HAVE YOUR  
BLADE?



I AM  
ALWAYS  
READY.





WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK?



IT FEELS  
LIKE IT'S...  
BREATHING.

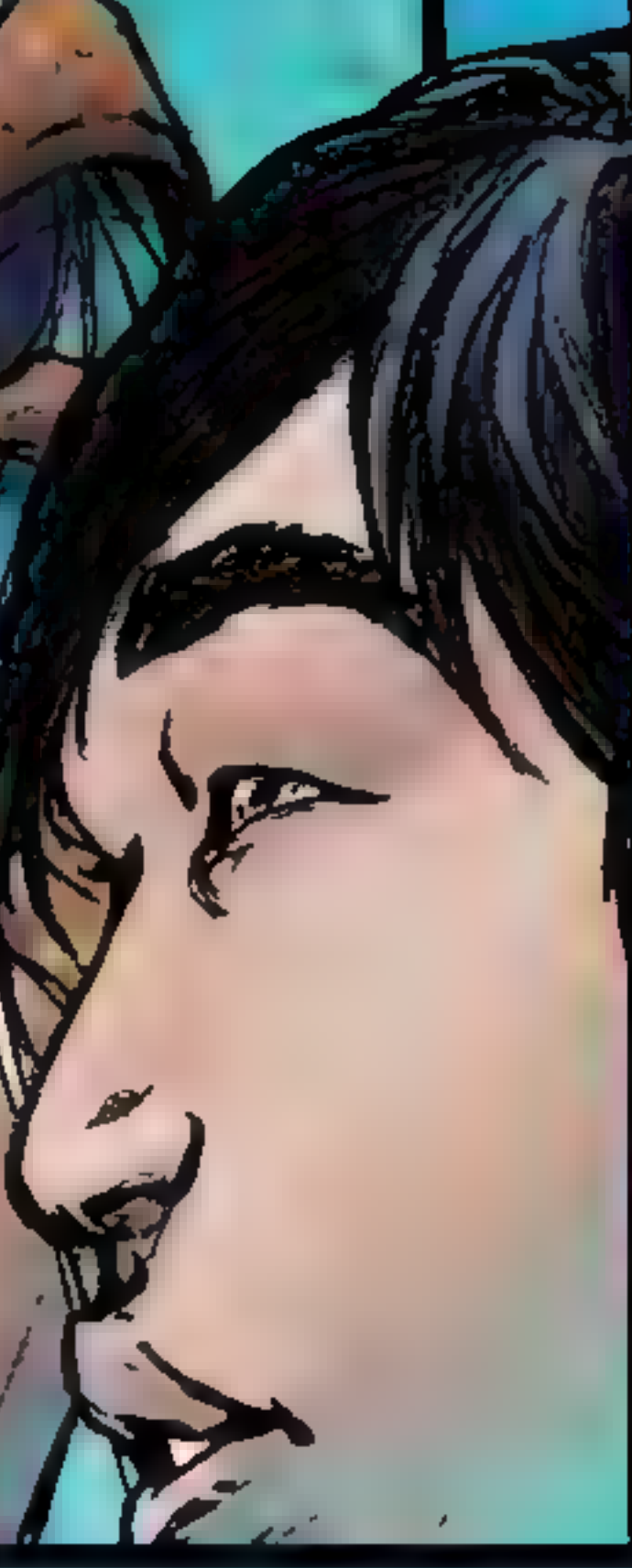
THAT'S JUST  
THE NANOTECH  
CALIBRATING TO YOUR  
BIOMETRICS. IT'S ALREADY  
WORKING-- YOU'VE  
GUIDED THE SHIP'S  
GPS JUST BY A  
THOUGHT.

YOU KNOW,  
THE LAST PERSON  
WHO TRIED TO ENGINEER  
AROUND MY POWERS  
WAS **KILLIAN**.\*

I NEARLY  
KILLED HIM  
FOR IT.

SO...WHAT  
SIDE ARE YOU  
REALLY ON,  
ASPEN?

\*EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE  
FATHOM VOLUME 1  
FOR MORE DETAILS!



NO ONE'S  
EVER ASKED  
ME THAT  
BEFORE...

I GUESS  
THE SIDE THAT  
JUST WANTS TO  
SEE...THE OCEANS  
LEFT ALONE  
FOR ONCE.

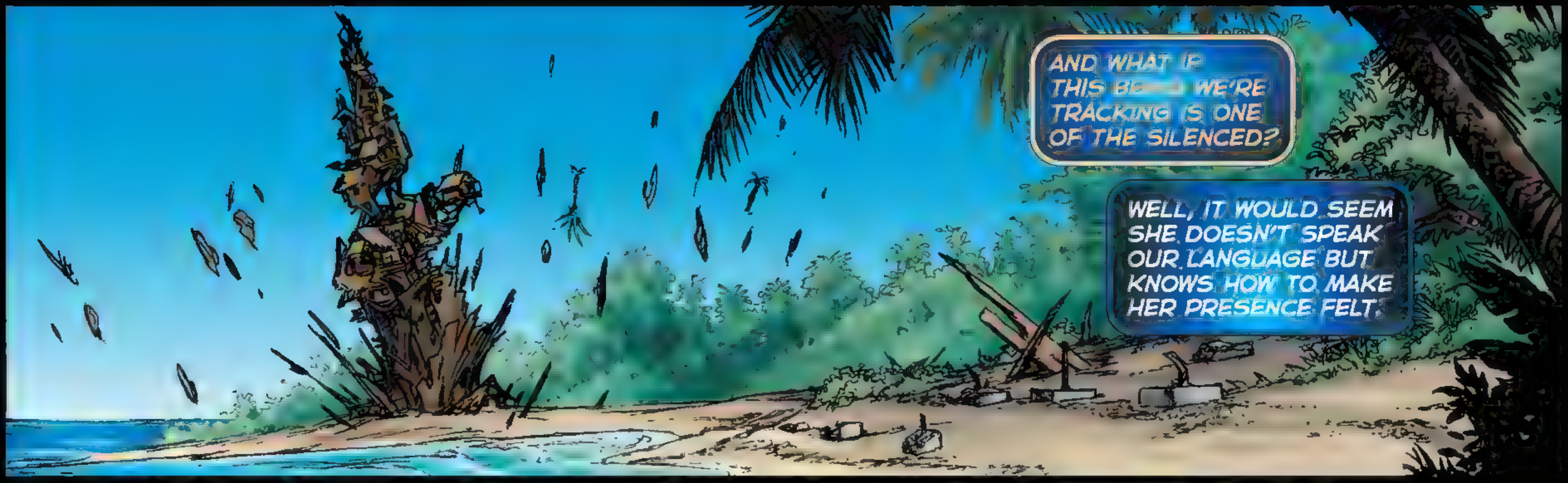


THE HUMANS, THE  
BLUE, THE BLACK--  
THEY FORGET THAT  
THE WORLD IS ABOUT  
MORE THAN OUR  
SPECIES.

OUR EARTH  
NEEDS TO BE  
HEARD, AND I'M  
WILLING TO BE  
ITS VOICE.











YOU DON'T  
NEED TO SPEAK  
WHEN YOU CAN  
MOVE MATTER,  
I SUPPOSE.

YOU SURE  
YOU WANNA  
DO THIS?



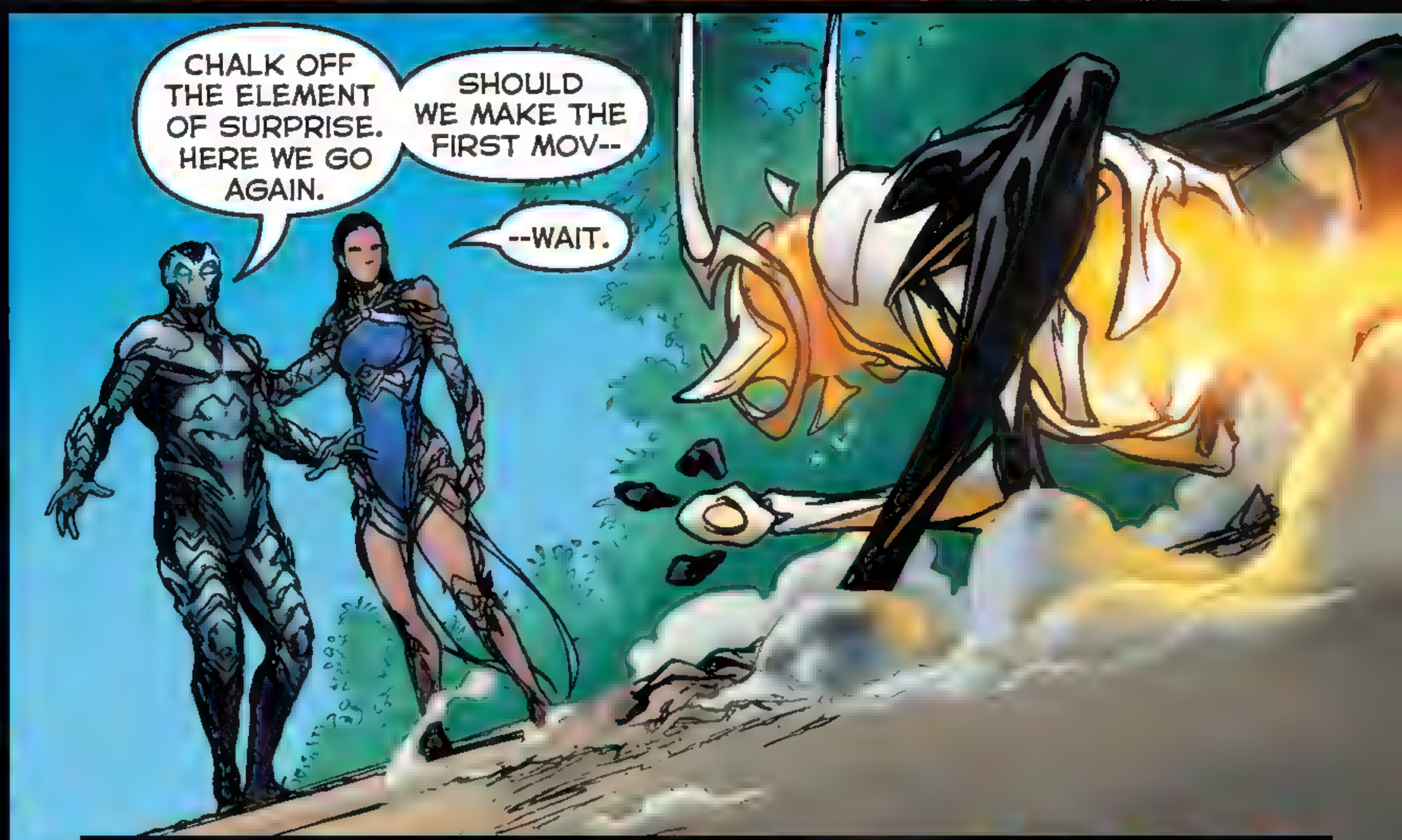
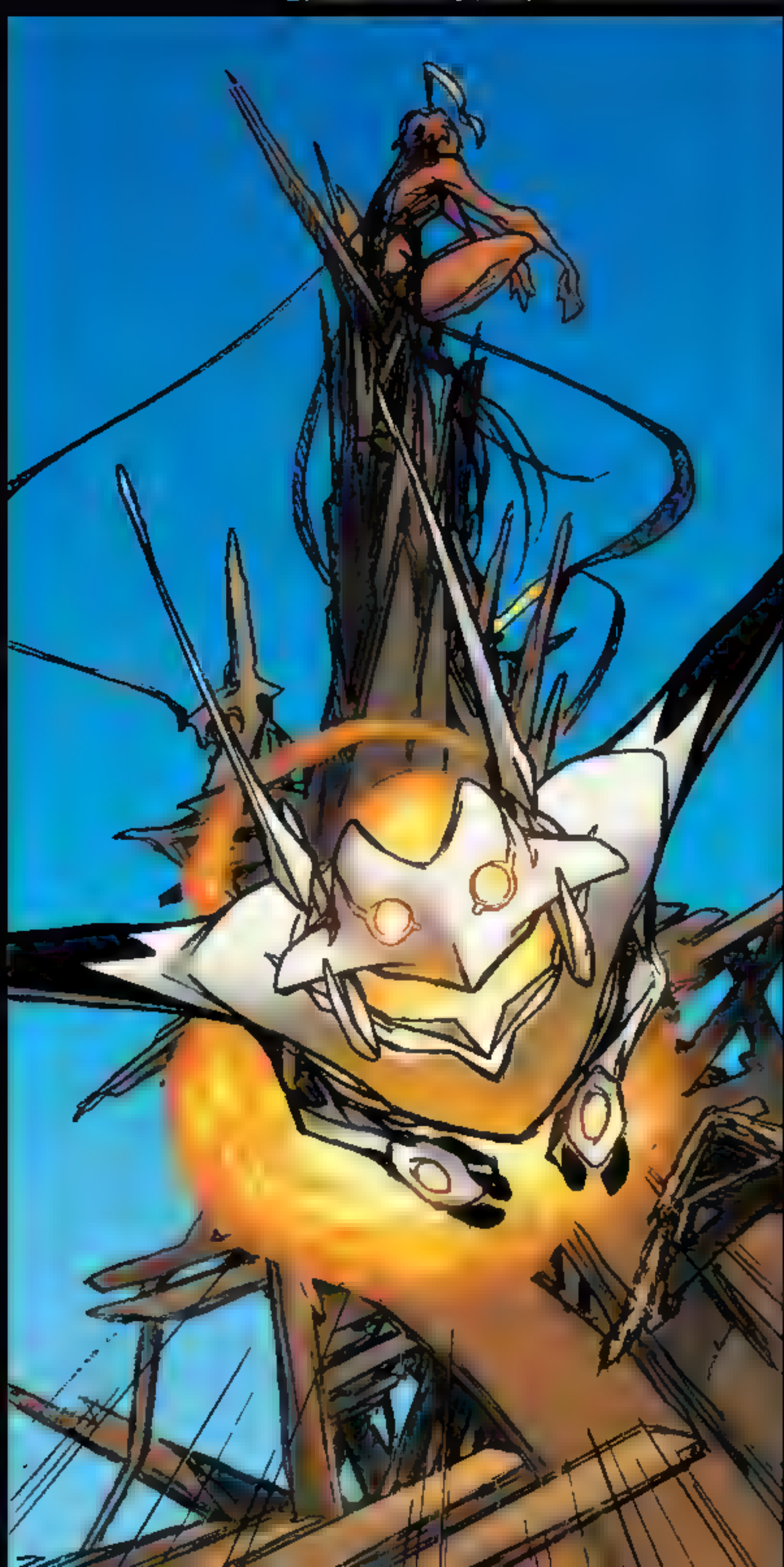
DOC...I  
WAS HER  
ONCE.

FRIGHTENED...  
ASHAMED...

...DEADLY.



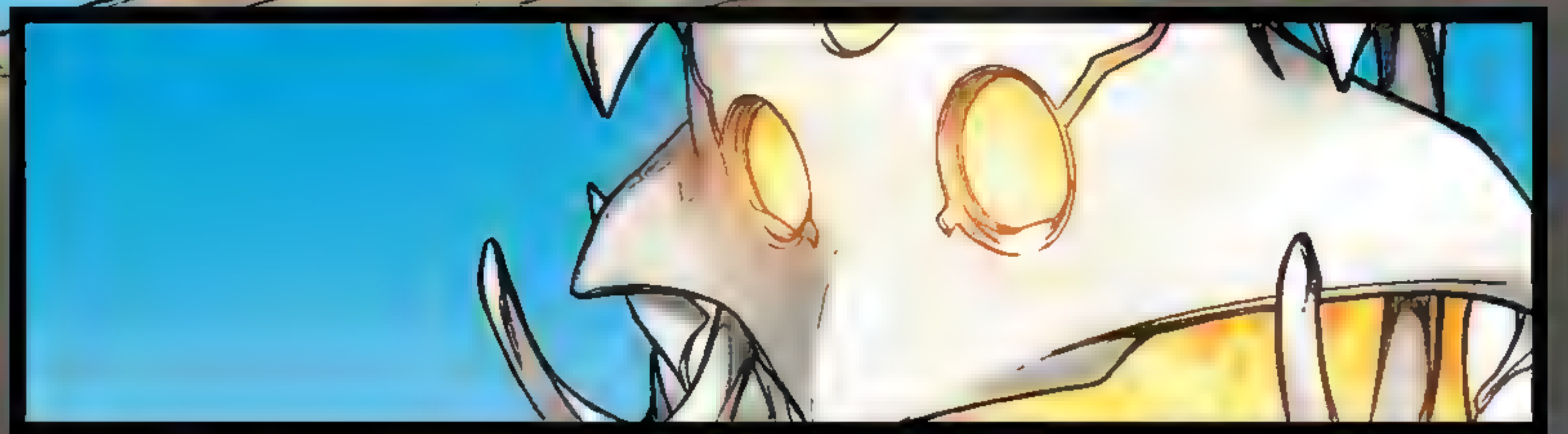
MAYBE  
SHE'LL LET  
ME HELP  
HER.



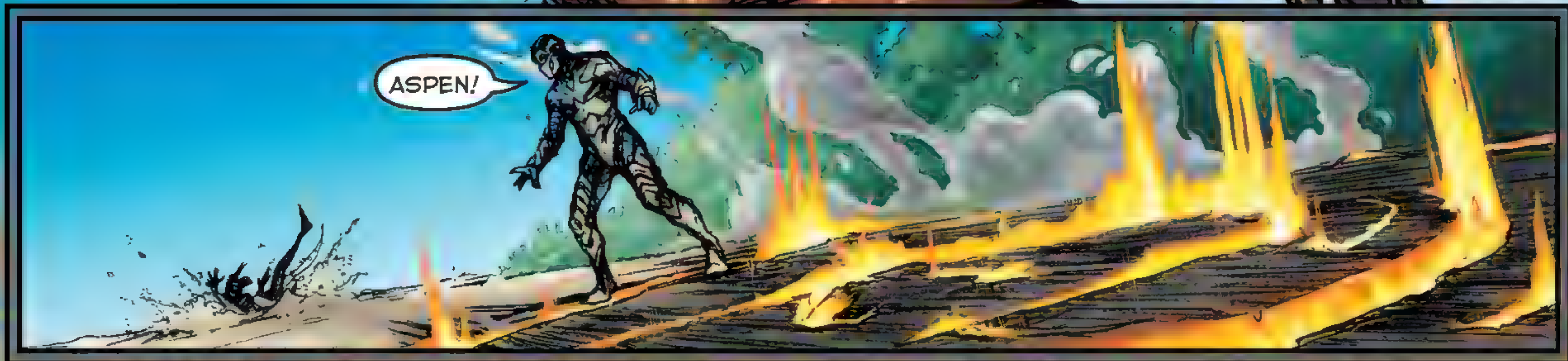
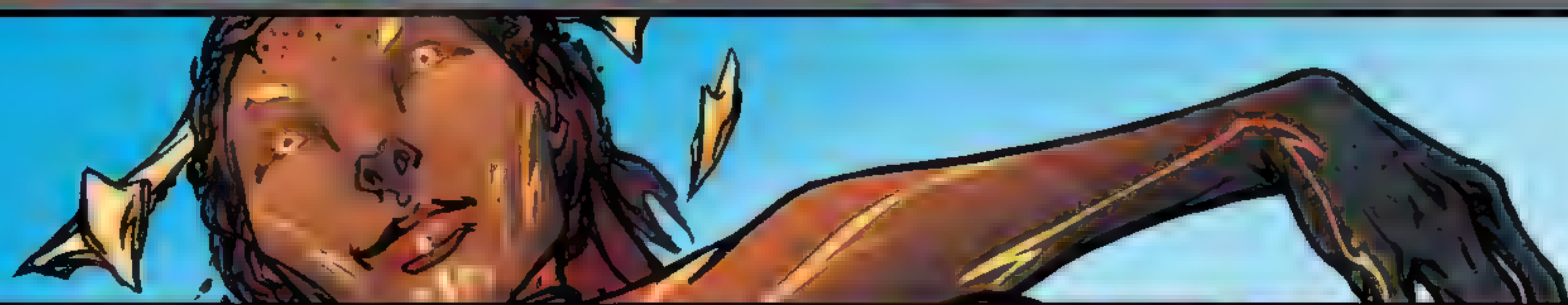
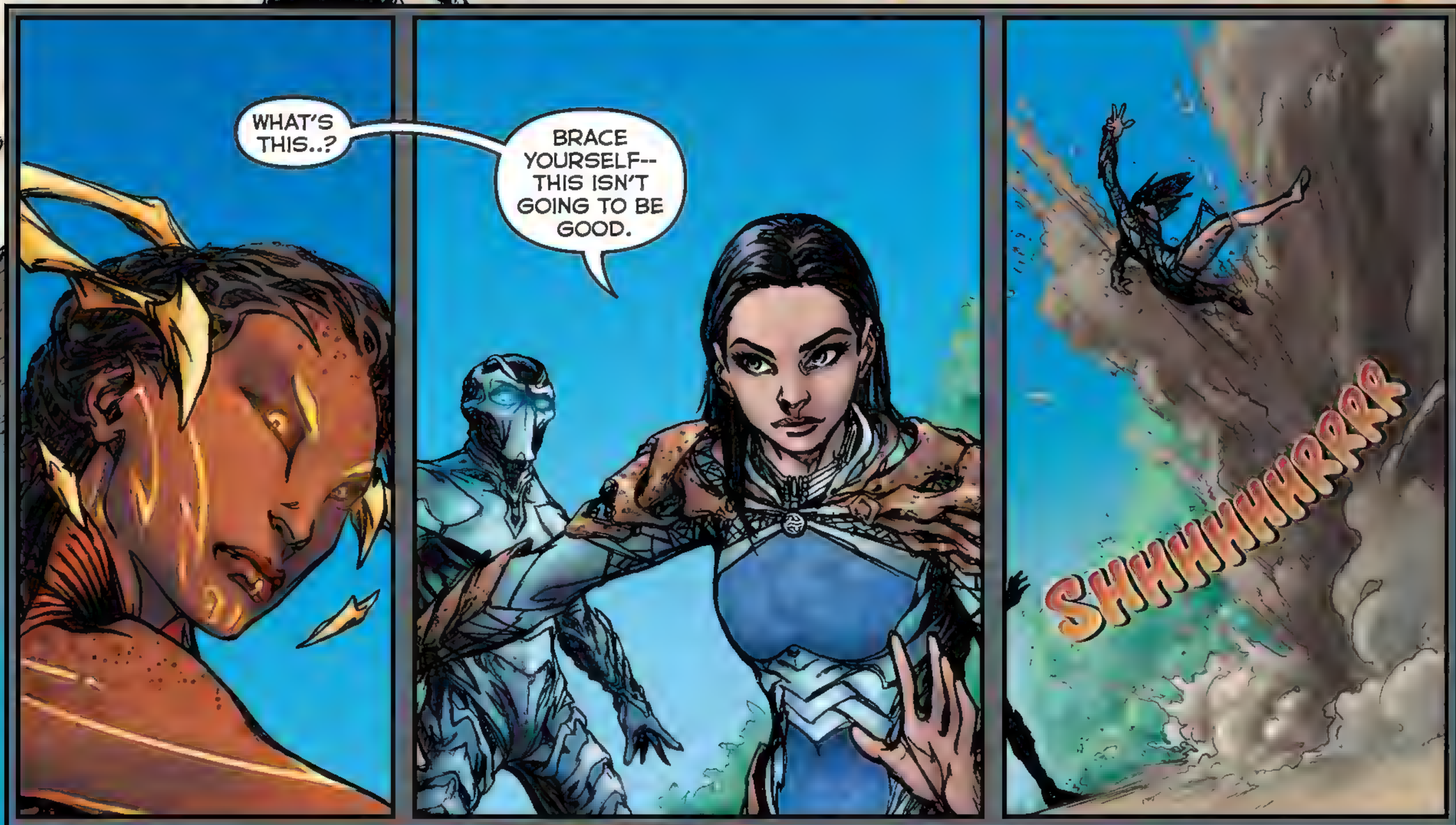
CHALK OFF  
THE ELEMENT  
OF SURPRISE.  
HERE WE GO  
AGAIN.

SHOULD  
WE MAKE THE  
FIRST MOV--

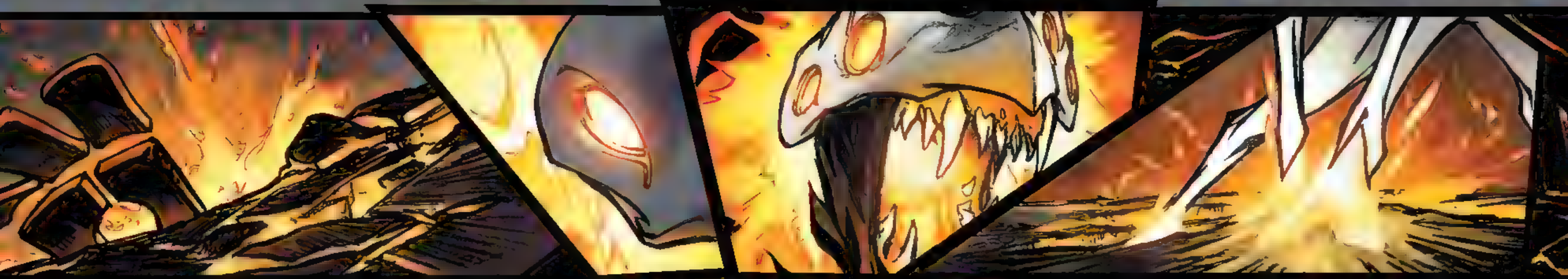
--WAIT.











WE NEED TO  
RETREAT.



IT'S  
TOO  
LATE!

WE'RE  
SURROUNDED--  
LOOKS LIKE WE  
GOTTA MAKE  
A STAND!



WAY  
AHEAD OF  
YOU!



AWW  
SHI--



KRSHHH

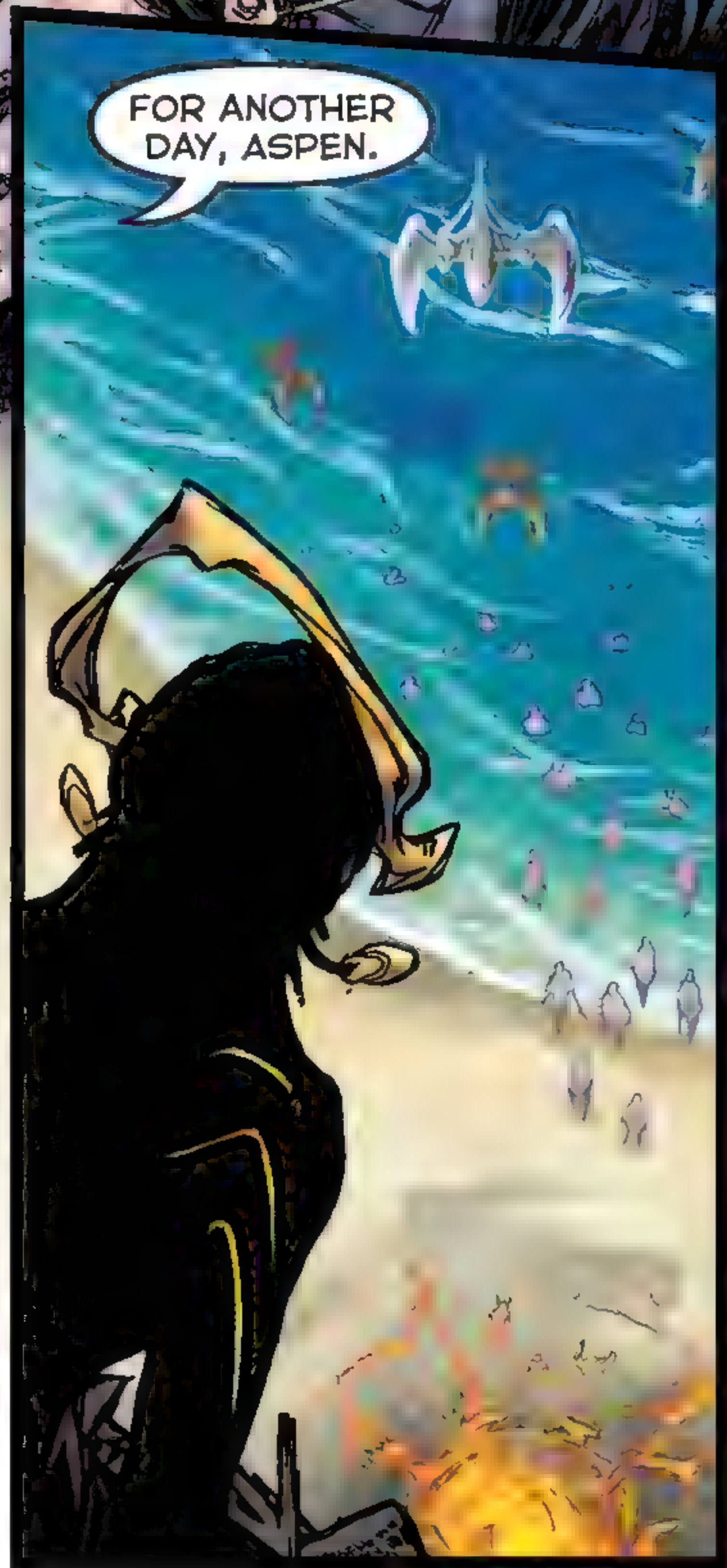




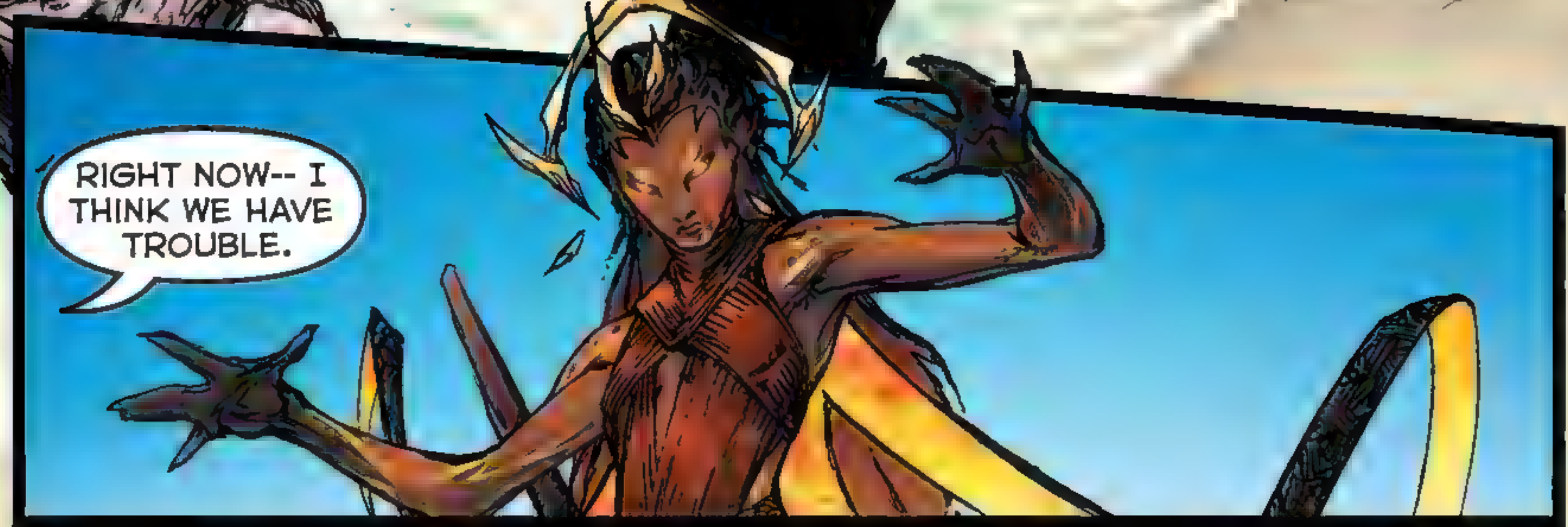
STAND  
DOWN... SHE  
IS ONE OF  
US.



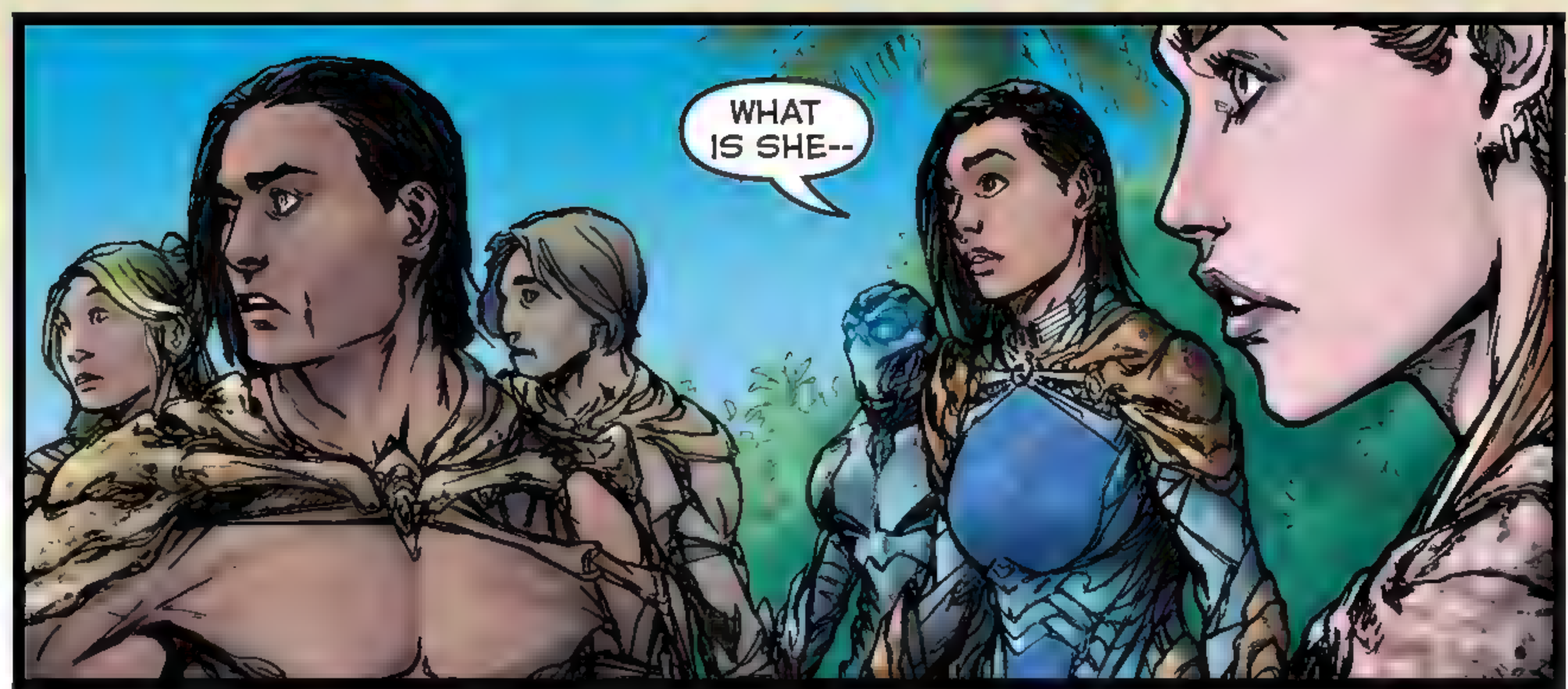
KIANI?  
CANNON...?! IT  
CAN'T BE.



FOR ANOTHER  
DAY, ASPEN.



RIGHT NOW-- I  
THINK WE HAVE  
TROUBLE.



WHAT  
IS SHE--

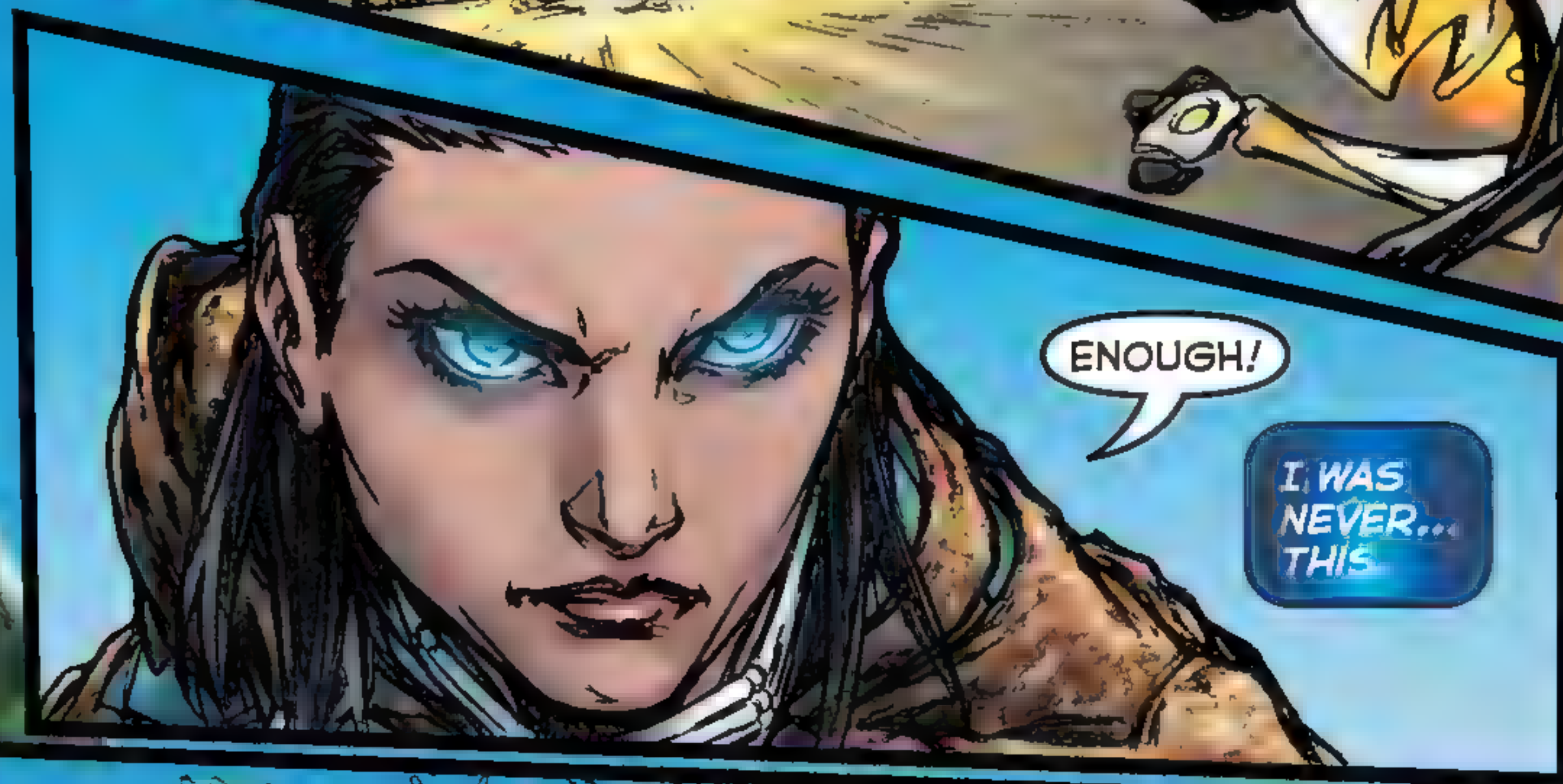




NO...

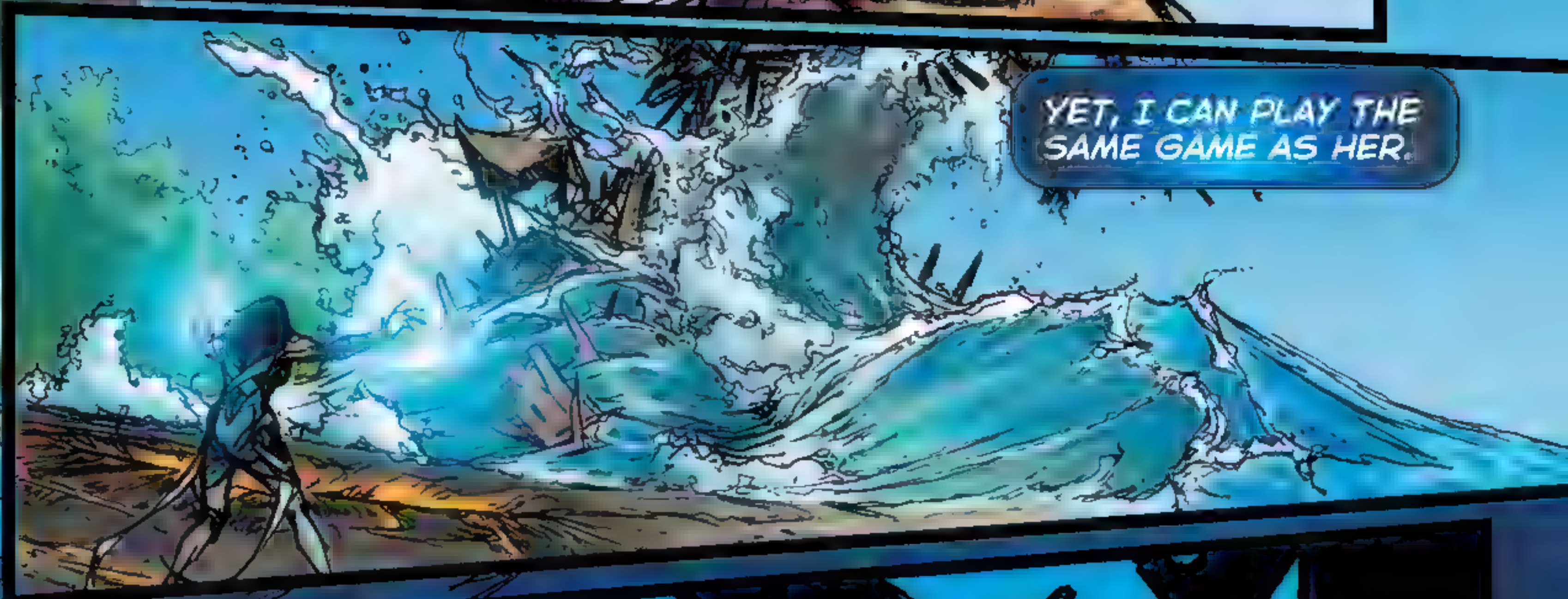


MONSTER!

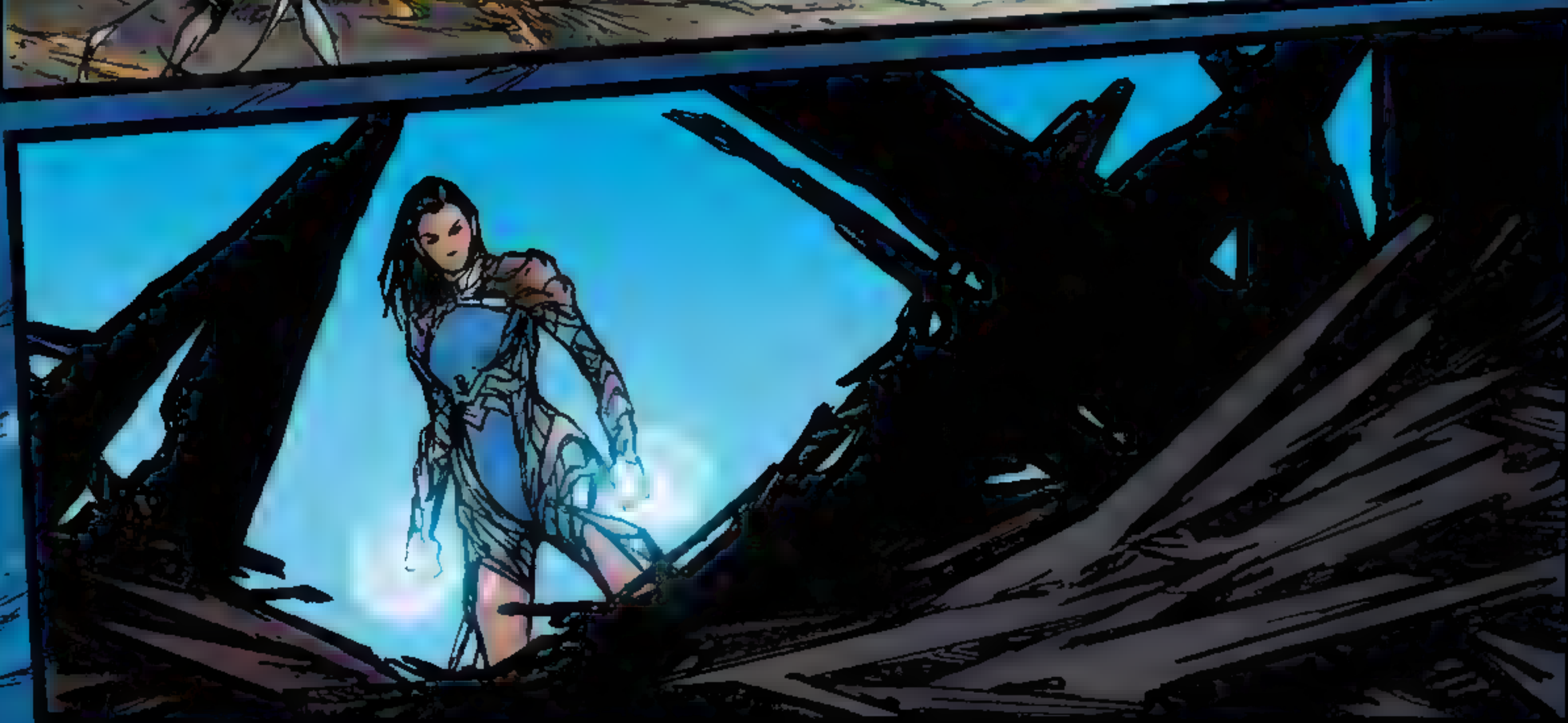


ENOUGH!

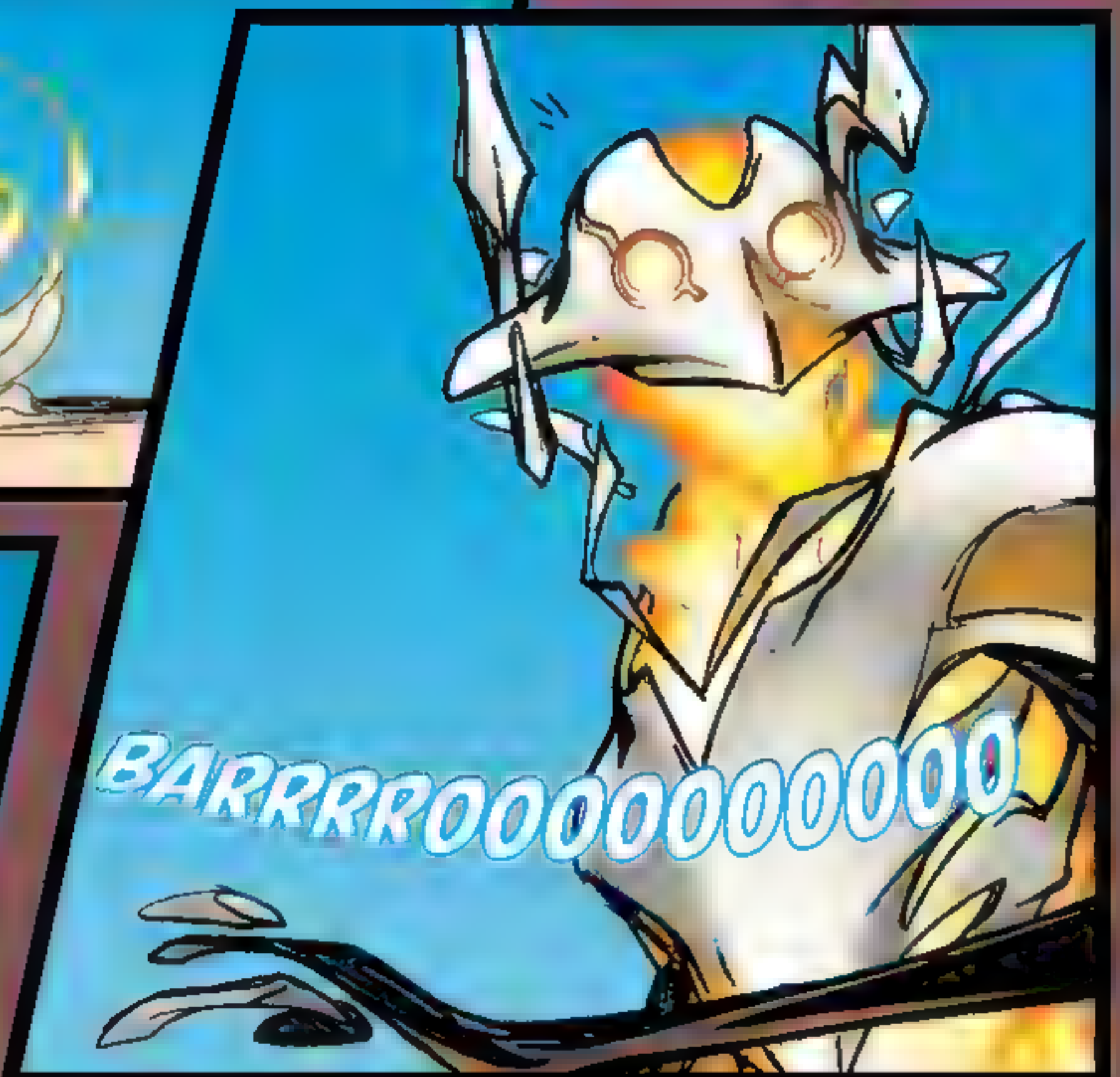
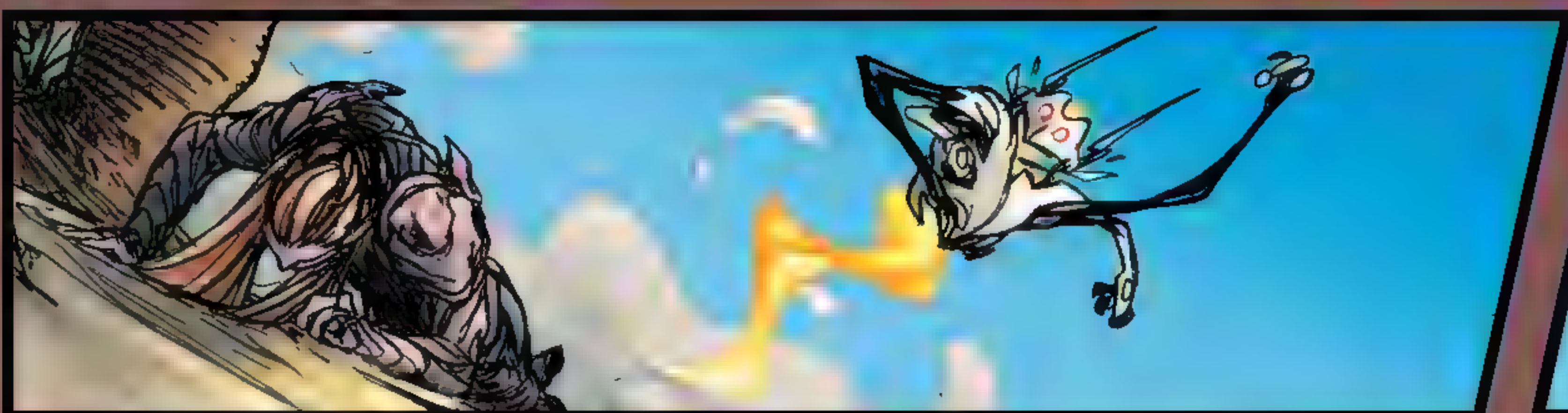
I WAS NEVER... THIS



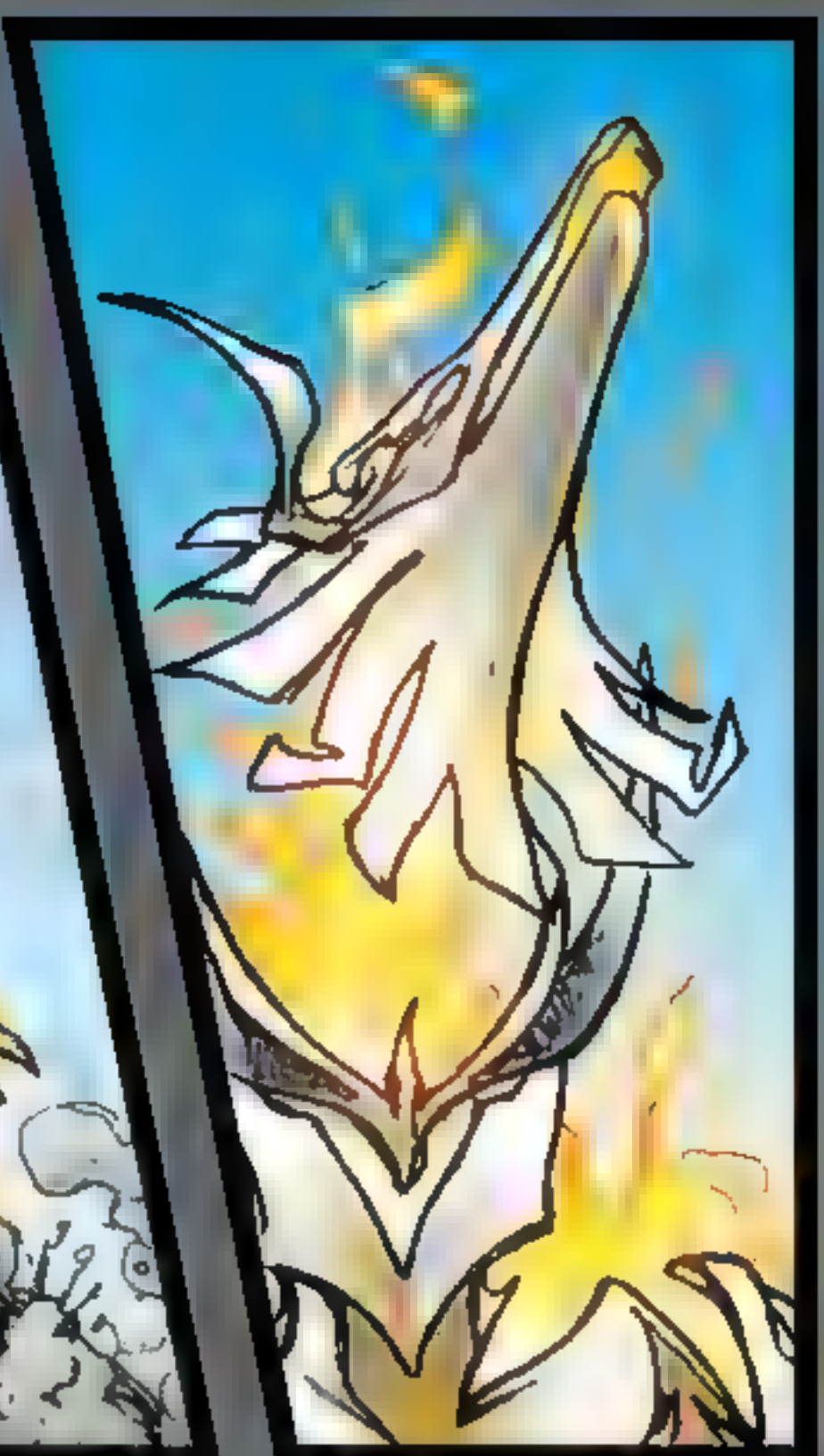
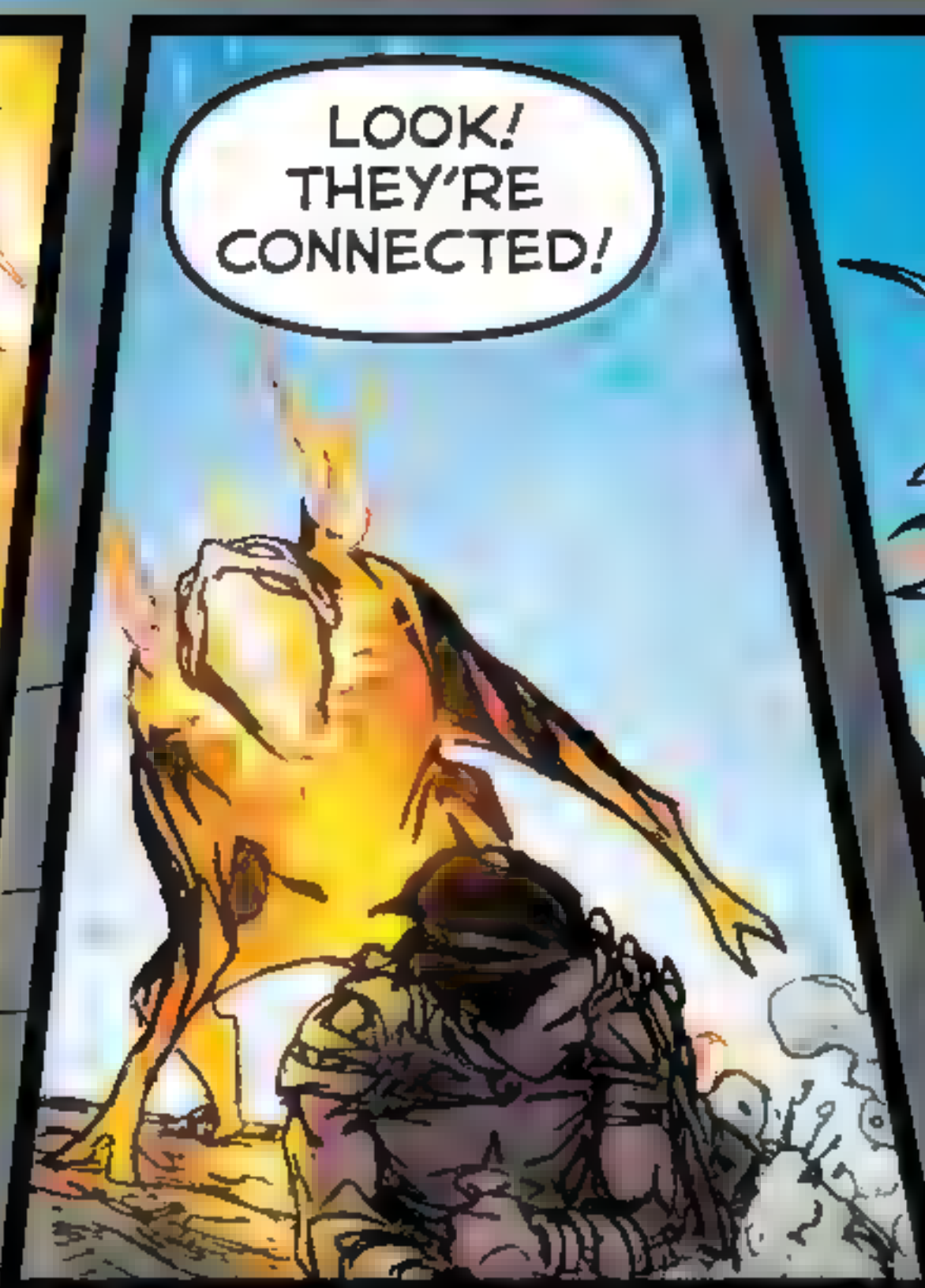
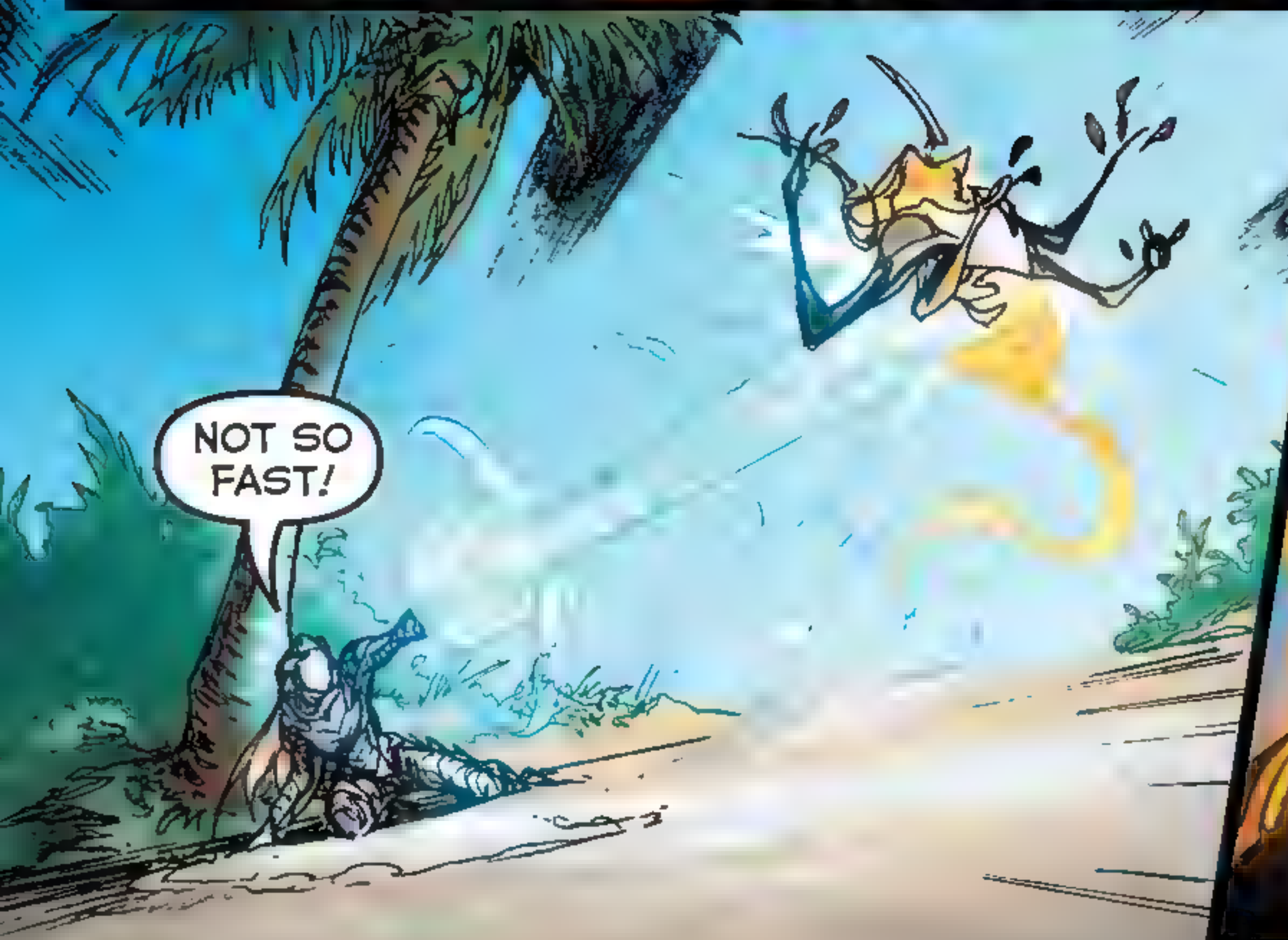
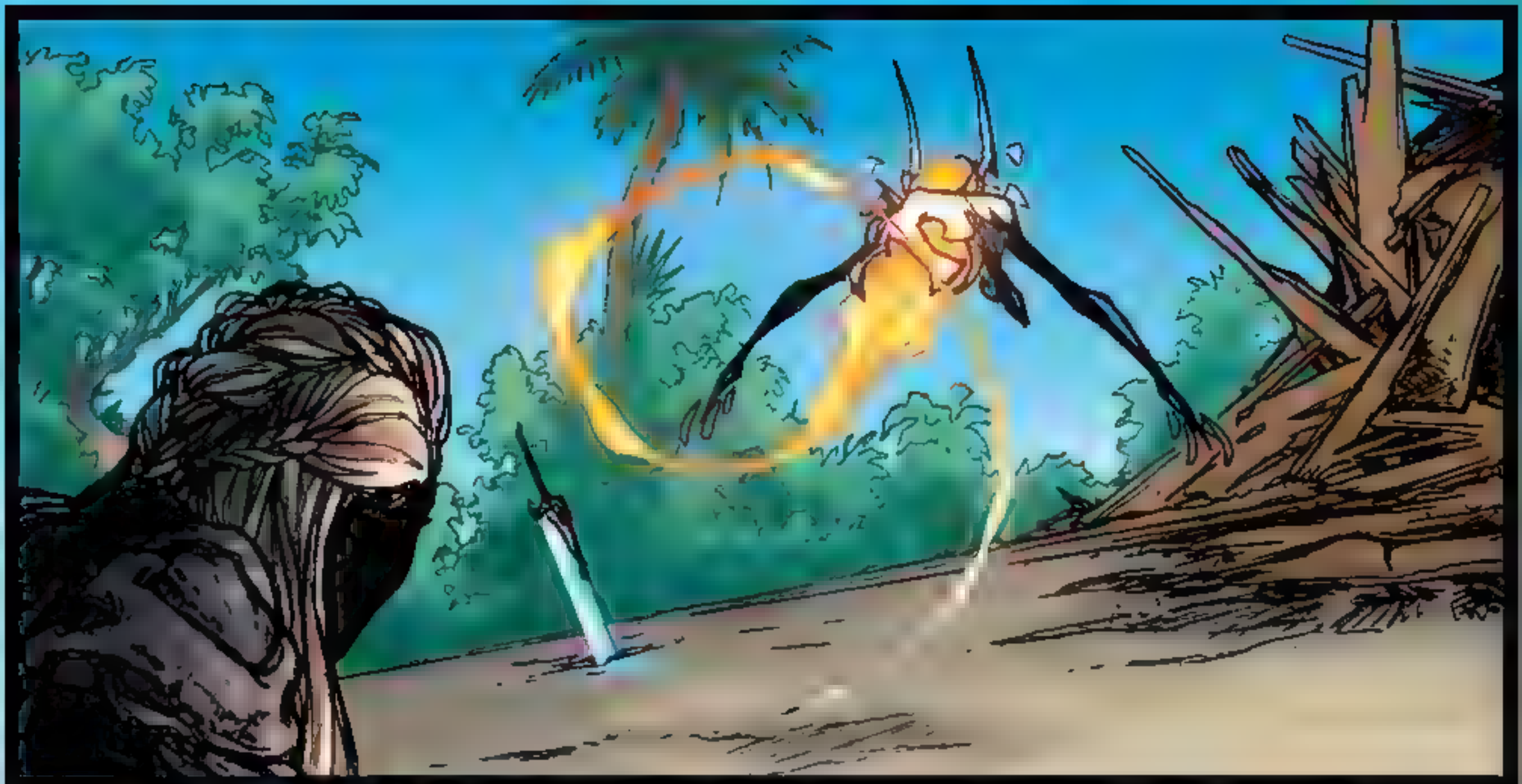
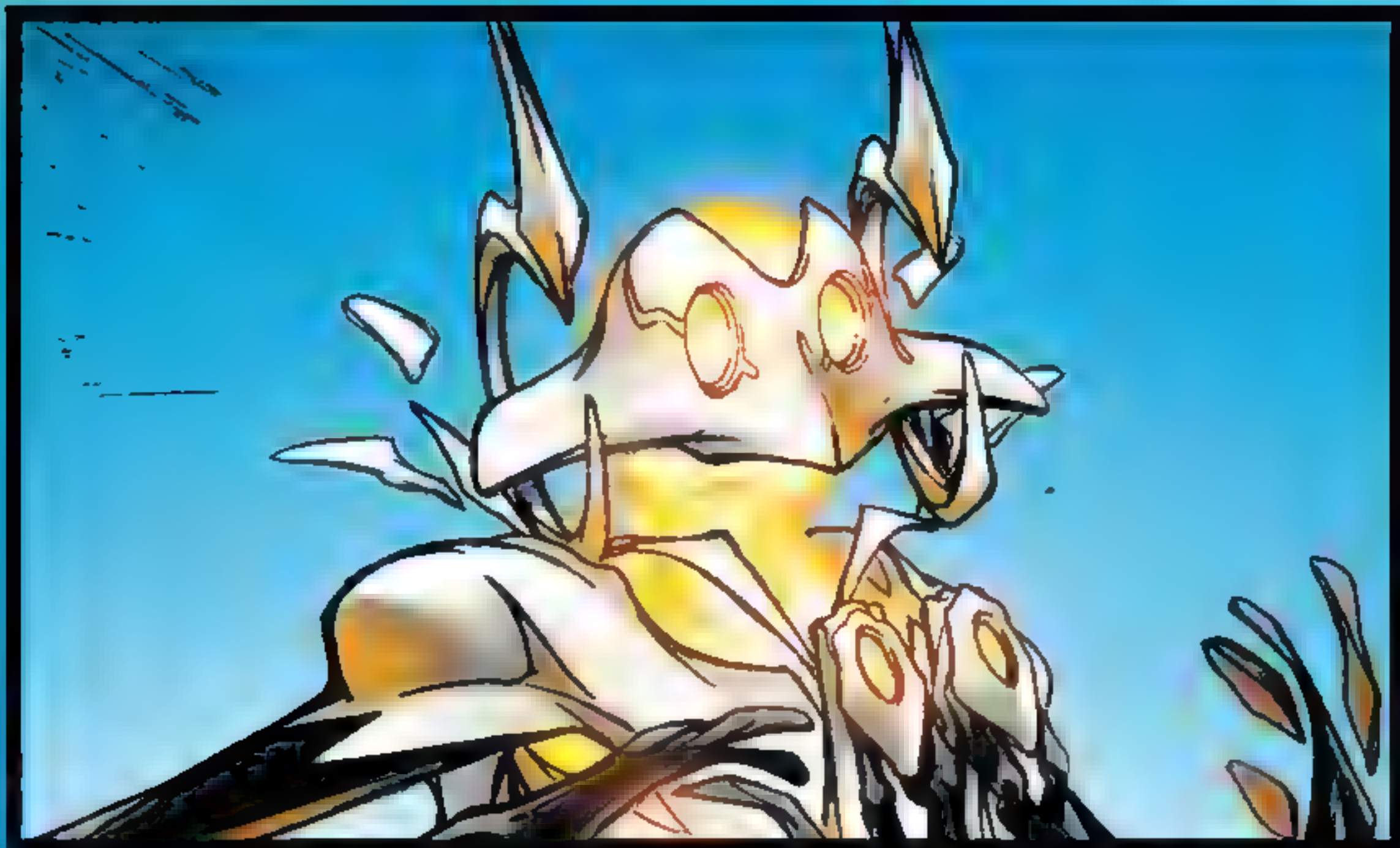
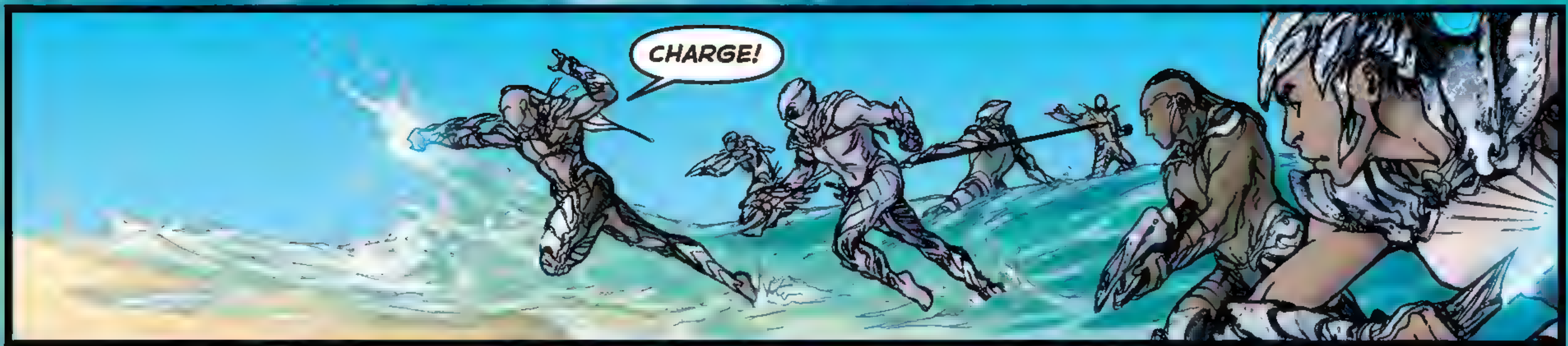
YET, I CAN PLAY THE SAME GAME AS HER.















OF COURSE **YOU** WOULD SHOW UP AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR TO TRY TO SAVE THE DAY. THE ONLY THING I CAN TRUST ABOUT YOU IS THAT I CANNOT TRUST WHAT YOU WILL DO.

FOR ONCE THIS IS NOT ABOUT YOU, ASPEN.

IT IS ABOUT THE BLUE, AND A THREAT THAT LEFT UNCHECKED WILL BE YET ANOTHER CATAclySM THAT MY PEOPLE WILL BE FORCED TO LIVE UNDER.

WE MAY SHARE HISTORY THAT IS UNRESOLVED, AND THAT DAY WILL COME-- YET SOMETIMES ENEMIES MUST BECOME ALLIES FOR THE GREATER PURPOSE.

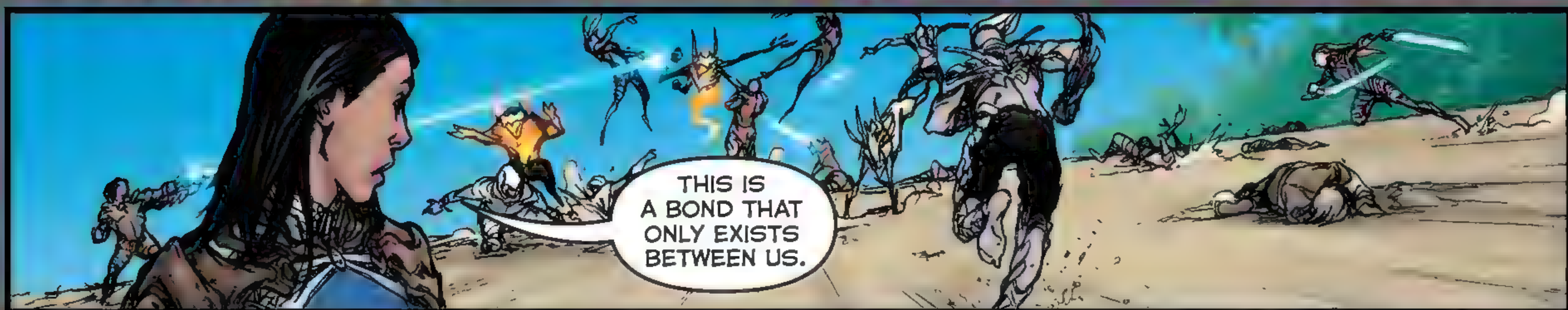
I DON'T TRUST YOU. I NEVER WILL.

IT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T ADMIT WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT. WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET...FOR THEM-- OUR SIDE.

I'LL HANDLE HER ALONE.

SO YOU HAVE BECOME WHAT WE WANTED ALL ALONG.

NO... BUT THIS IS SOMETHING ONLY I CAN DO...



THIS IS A BOND THAT ONLY EXISTS BETWEEN US.



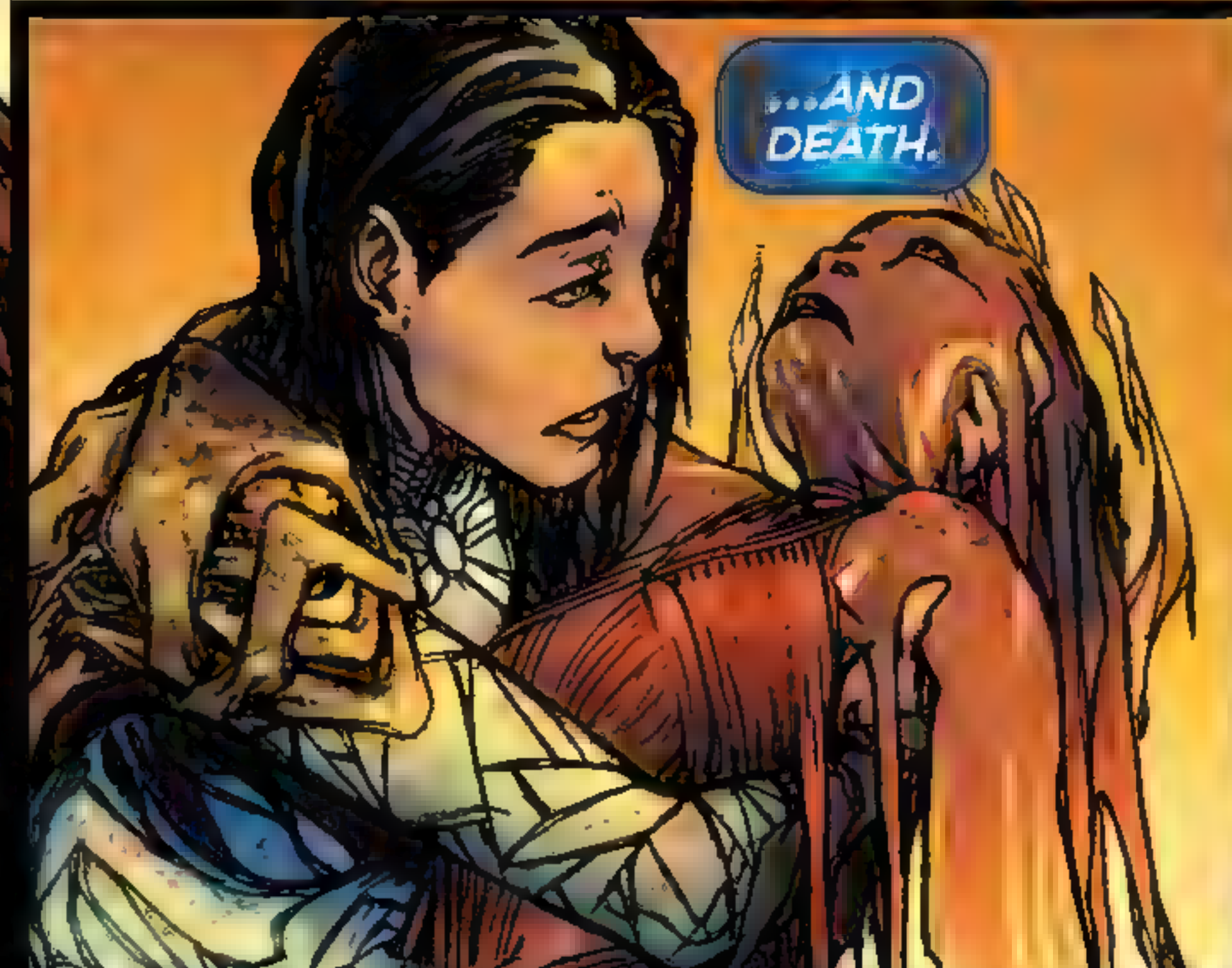
NOW TELL ME WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND.



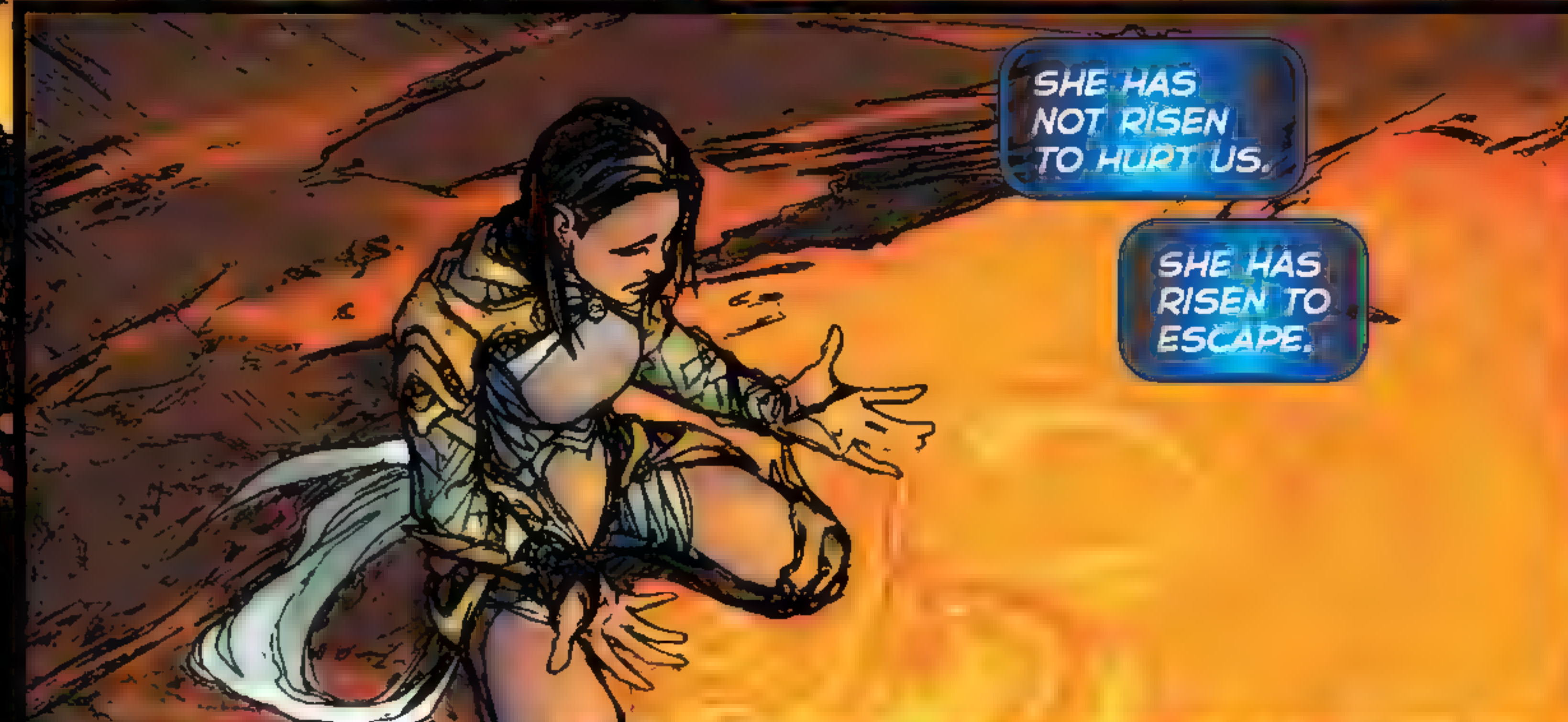


I WAS NOT EXPECTING THIS

FEAR AND DANGER...

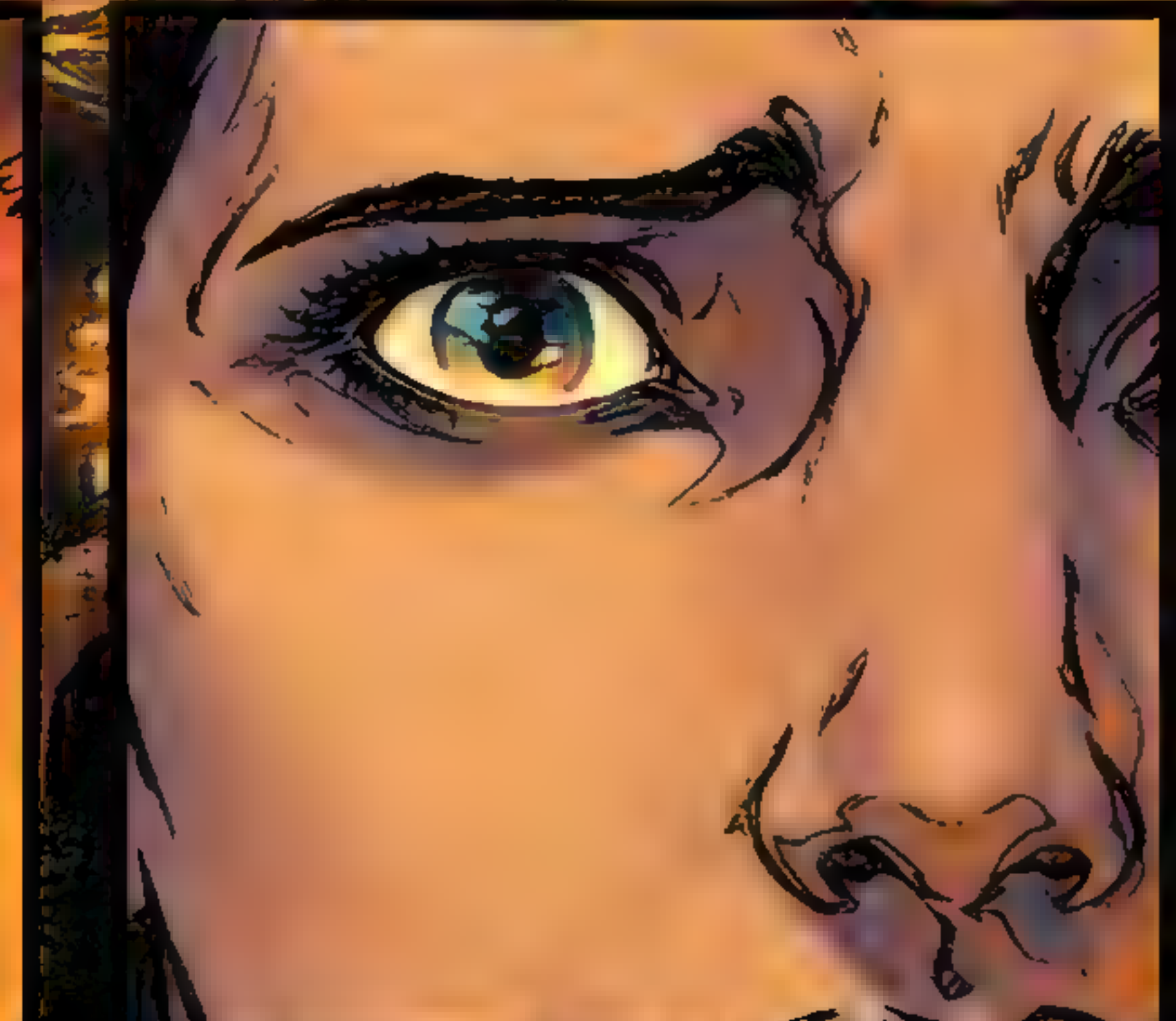


...AND DEATH.

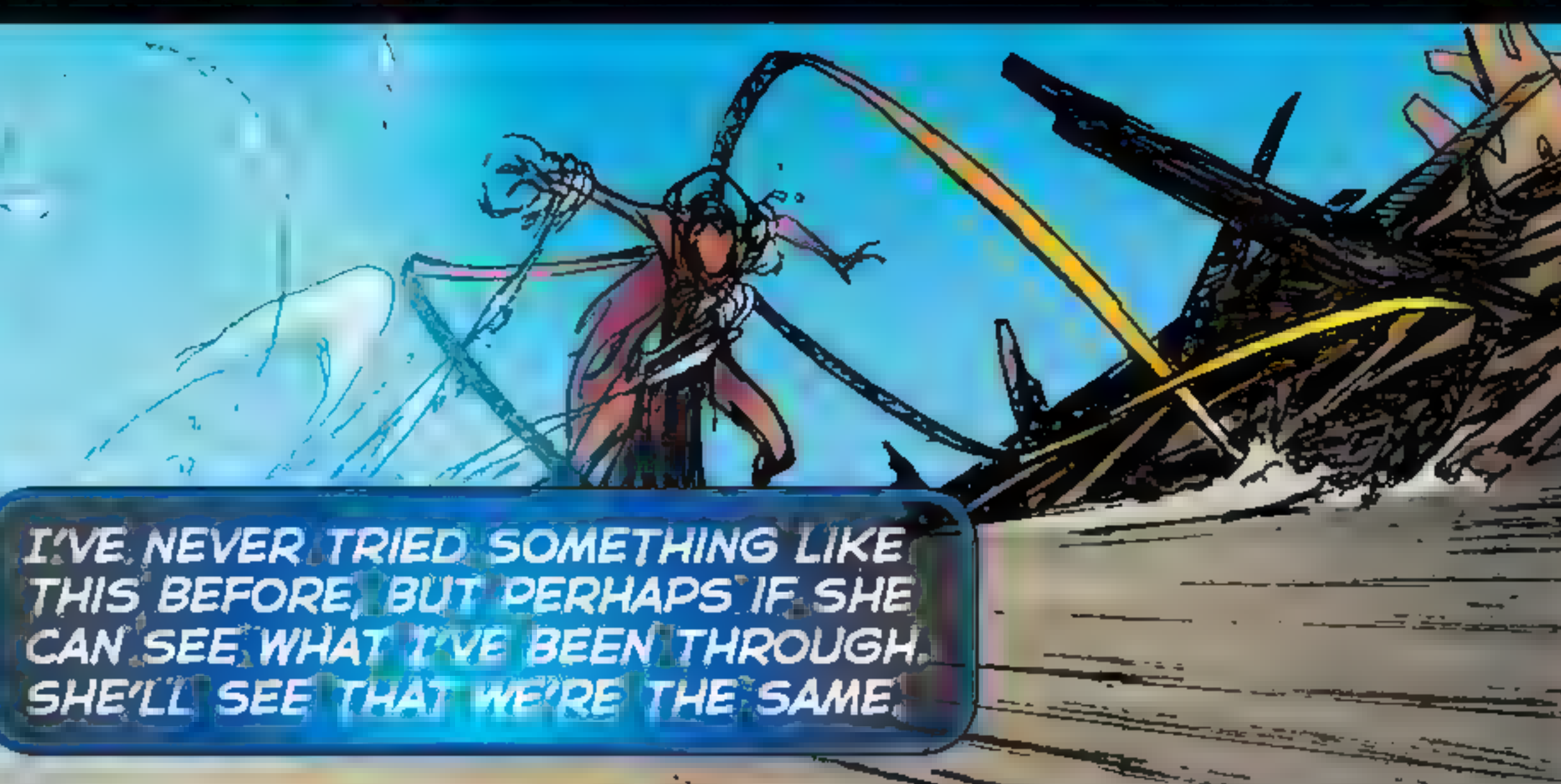


SHE HAS NOT RISEN TO HURT US.

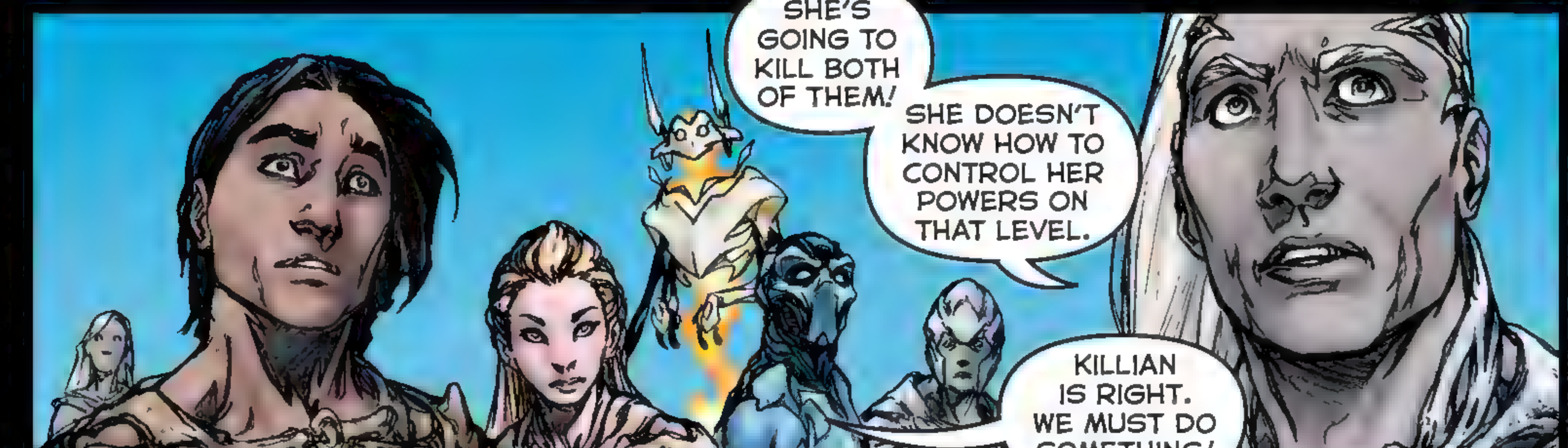
SHE HAS RISEN TO ESCAPE.



IF I CAN JUST REASON WITH HER, IT MIGHT SAVE US ALL.



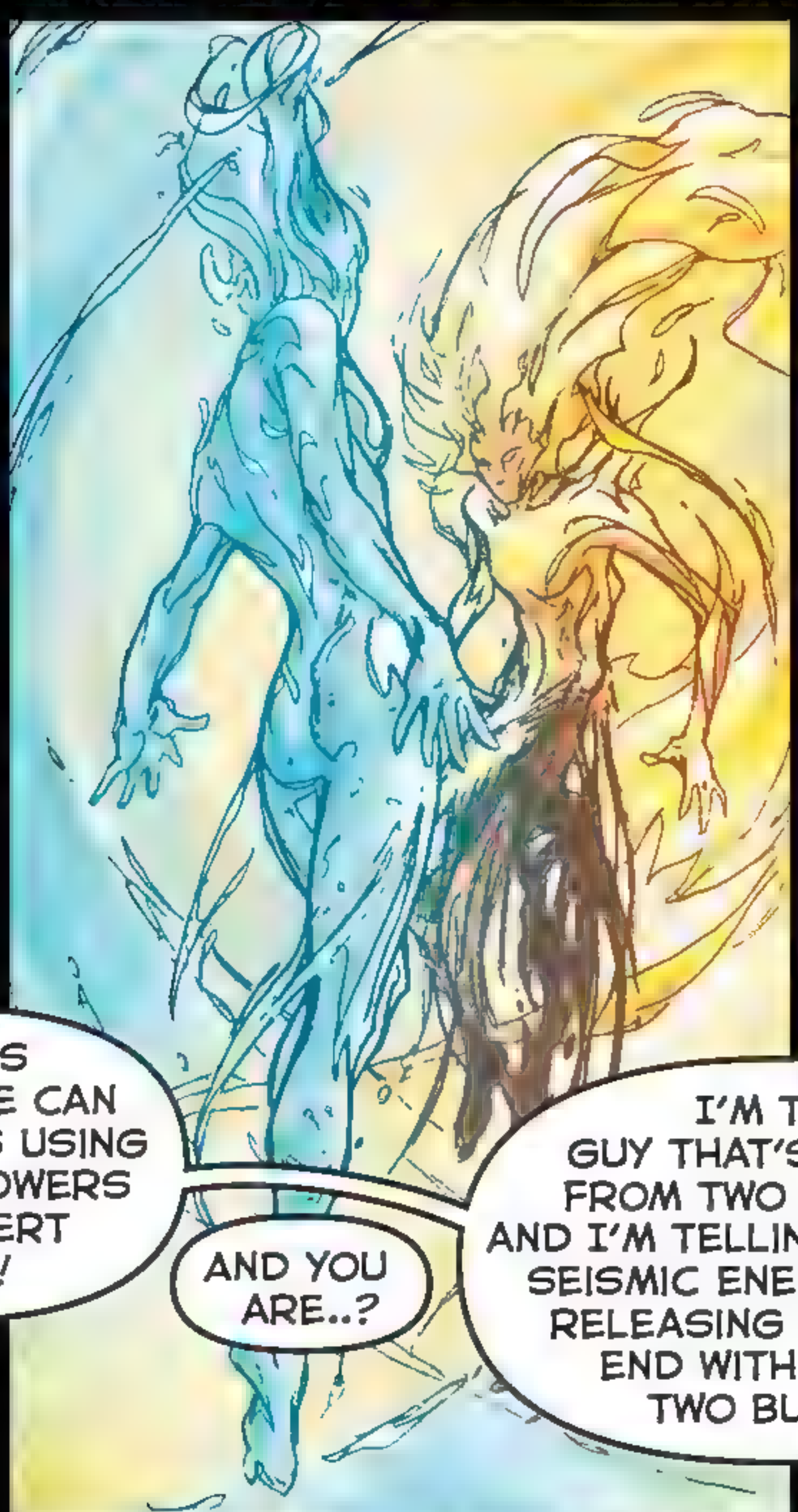
I'VE NEVER TRIED SOMETHING LIKE THIS BEFORE, BUT PERHAPS IF SHE CAN SEE WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH, SHE'LL SEE THAT WE'RE THE SAME.



SHE'S GOING TO KILL BOTH OF THEM!

SHE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO CONTROL HER POWERS ON THAT LEVEL.

KILLIAN IS RIGHT. WE MUST DO SOMETHING!



THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO. ASPEN'S USING HER OWN POWERS TO SUBVERT HERS!

AND YOU ARE...?

I'M THE GUY THAT'S REALLY FROM TWO WORLDS, AND I'M TELLING YOU-- THE SEISMIC ENERGY SHE'S RELEASING CAN ONLY END WITH THOSE TWO BURIED!



KIANI-- CAN YOU STOP IT?

ASPEN IS TOO POWERFUL, THERE'S NOTHING ANY HUMAN OR BLUE CAN DO TO BREAK THROUGH HER BARRIER.



SHE'S RIGHT... WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING. WE CAN'T HELP HER. SHE NEEDS--

MAGIC.





SHE  
NEEDS  
ME.



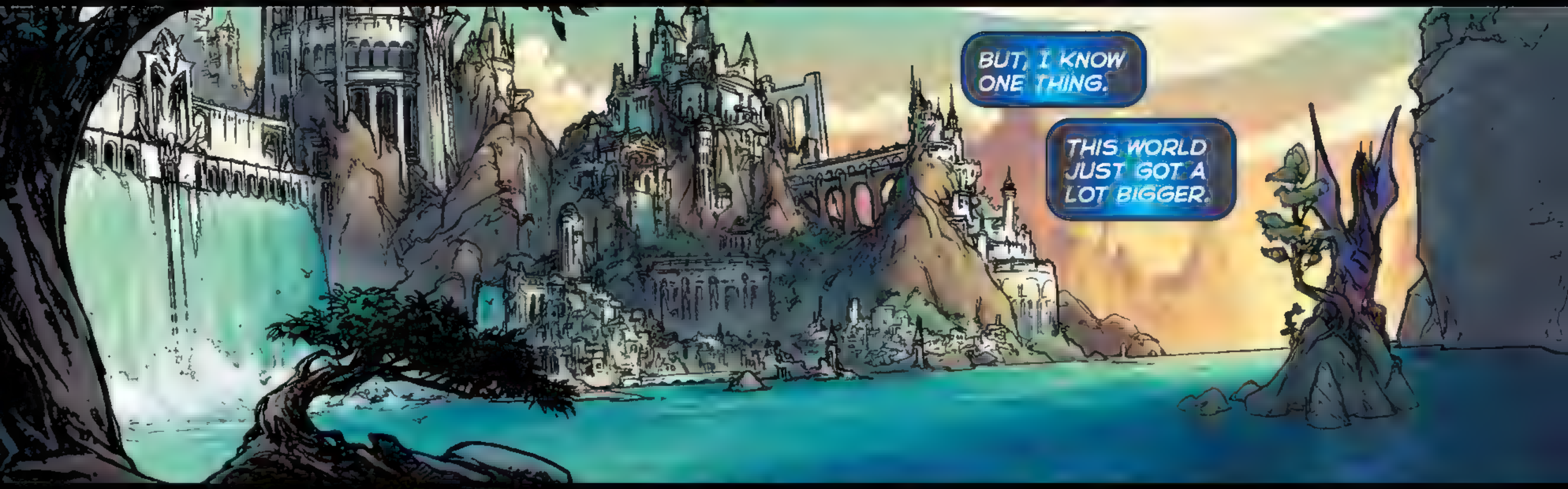
STAND  
BACK.



PILOGUE.

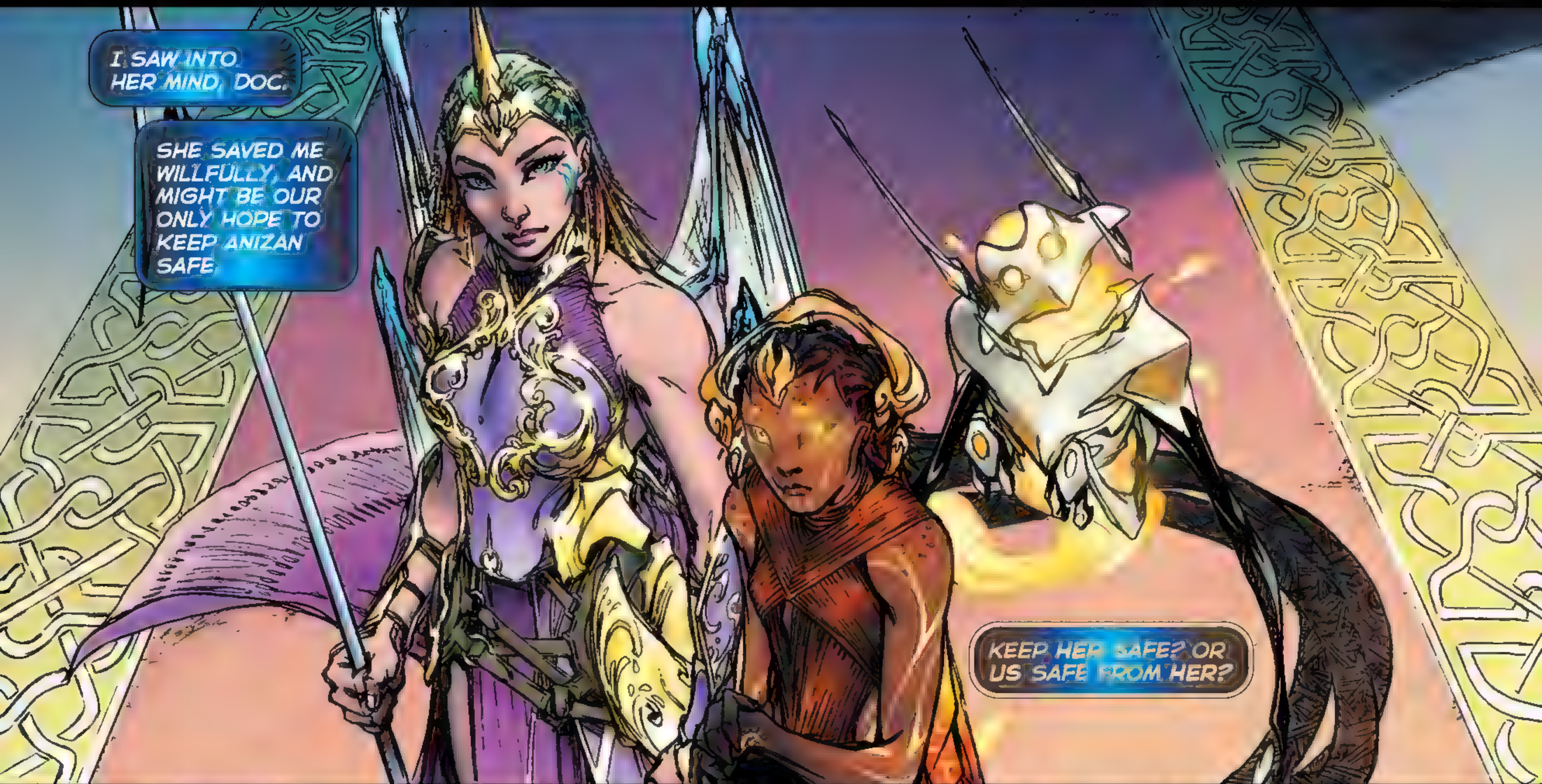
SO, DO YOU REMEMBER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED AFTER THE MYSTERIOUS WINGED WOMAN ARRIVED?

I, UH-- I REMEMBER VERY LITTLE ONCE WE MERGED, TO BE HONEST.



BUT, I KNOW ONE THING.

THIS WORLD JUST GOT A LOT BIGGER.



I SAW INTO HER MIND, DOC.

SHE SAVED ME WILLFULLY, AND MIGHT BE OUR ONLY HOPE TO KEEP ANIZAN SAFE.

KEEP HER SAFE? OR US SAFE FROM HER?



WELL... WHATEVER IS DOWN THERE LOOKING FOR HER IS EVENTUALLY GOING TO FIGURE OUT SHE'S MISSING.







SO, DOC...  
IT'S TIME YOU  
FILLED US IN ON  
YOUR RESEARCH  
DOWN THERE.

THE END OF  
FATHOM: THE CORE

BUT THE STORY CONTINUES IN THE  
NEXT EXCITING CHAPTER

SOULFIRE  
CORE



J.T. KRUL | Alex KONAT | Mark ROSLAN | Peter STEIGERWALD | ZEN



COVER A

#1  
OF 2

MICHAEL FUMIER'S  
**SOULFIRE**  
THE **CORE**





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MICHAEL TUPIER'S  
**SOULFIRE**  
THE CORE™



COVER B

#**1**  
OF 2



GUNDERSON  
*B. Belf*



# MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE THE CORE

ISSUE ONE OF TWO

writer

J.T. KRUL

pencils

ALEX KONAT

digital inks

MARK ROSLAN

colors

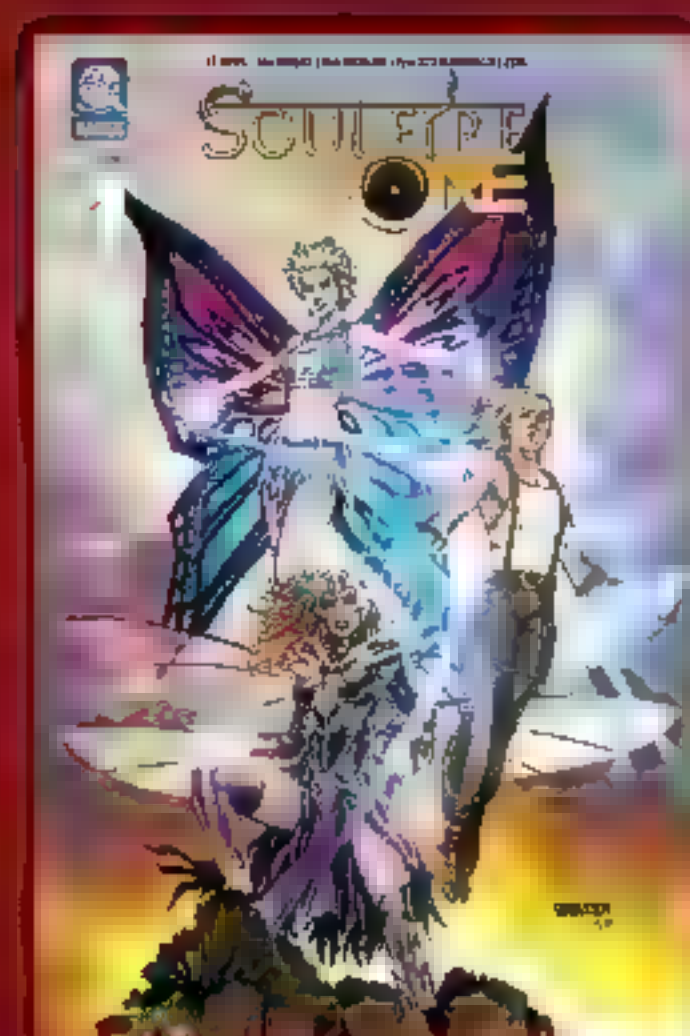
PETER STEIGERWALD

letters

ZEN



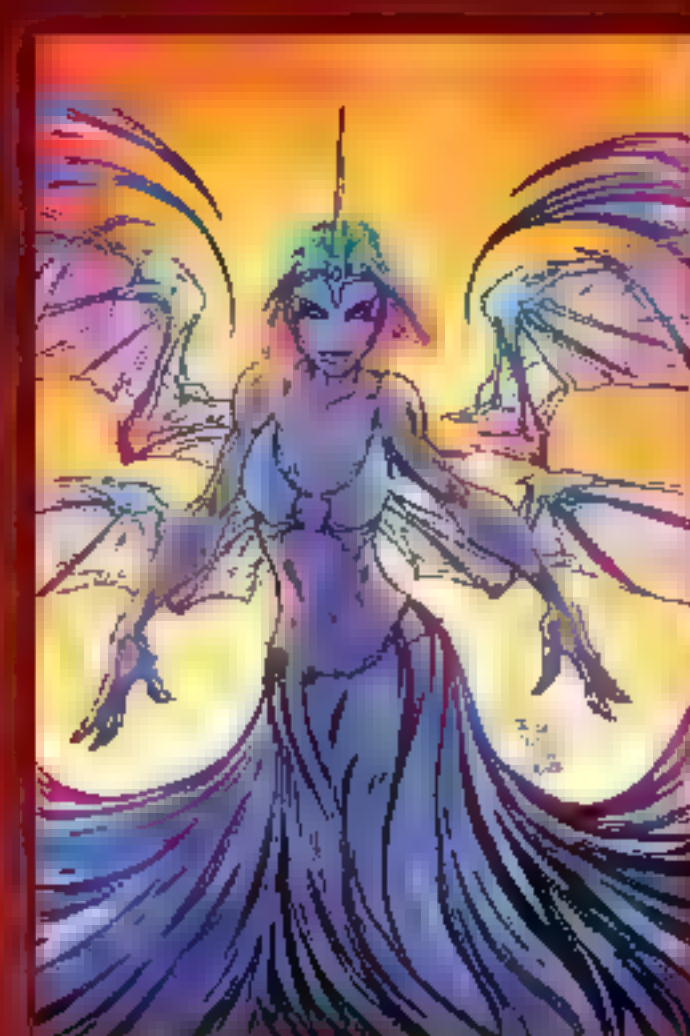
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Direct Edition  
by - ALEX KONAT  
& - MARK ROSLAN  
& - PETER STEIGERWALD



**B**  
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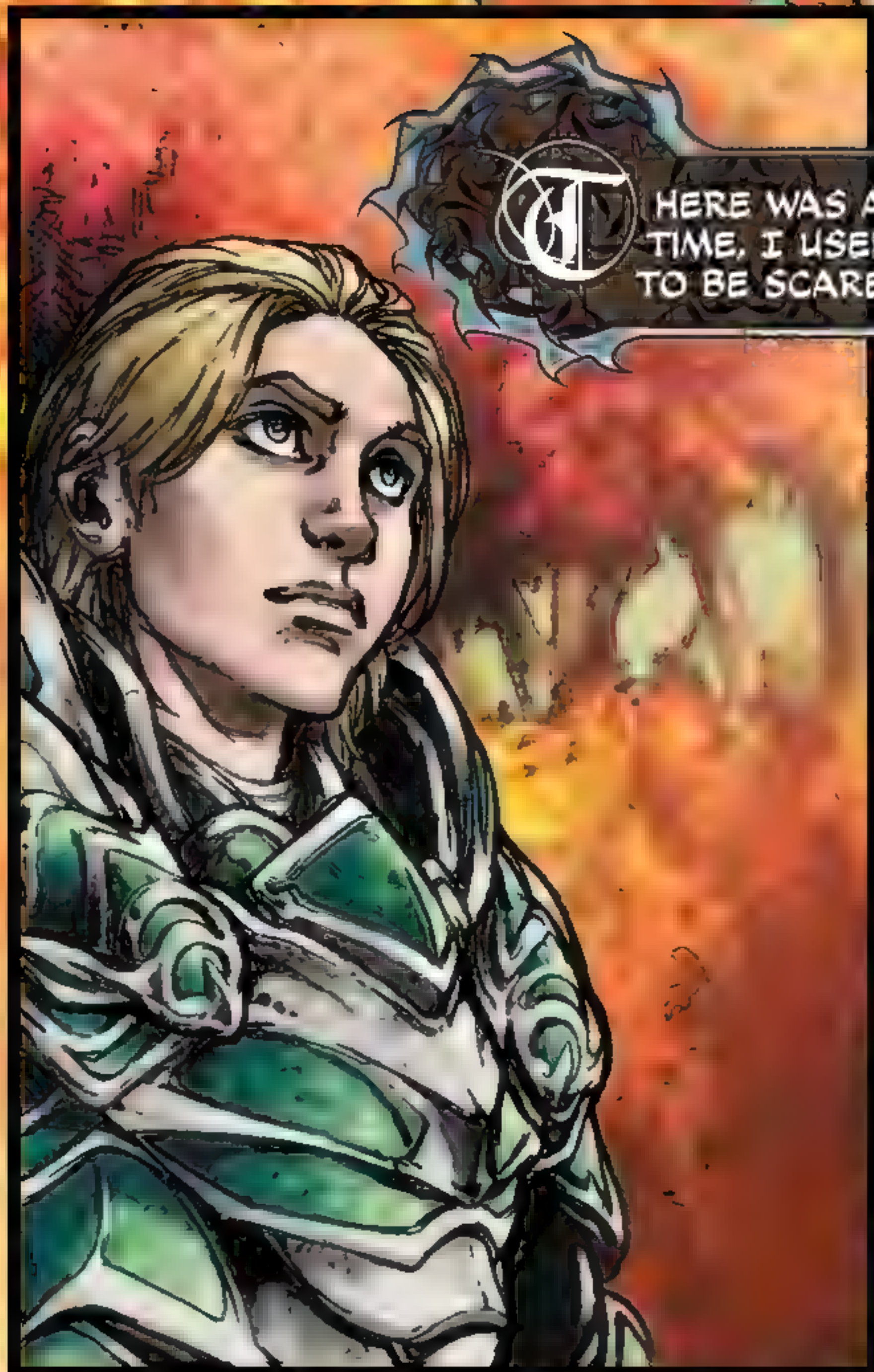
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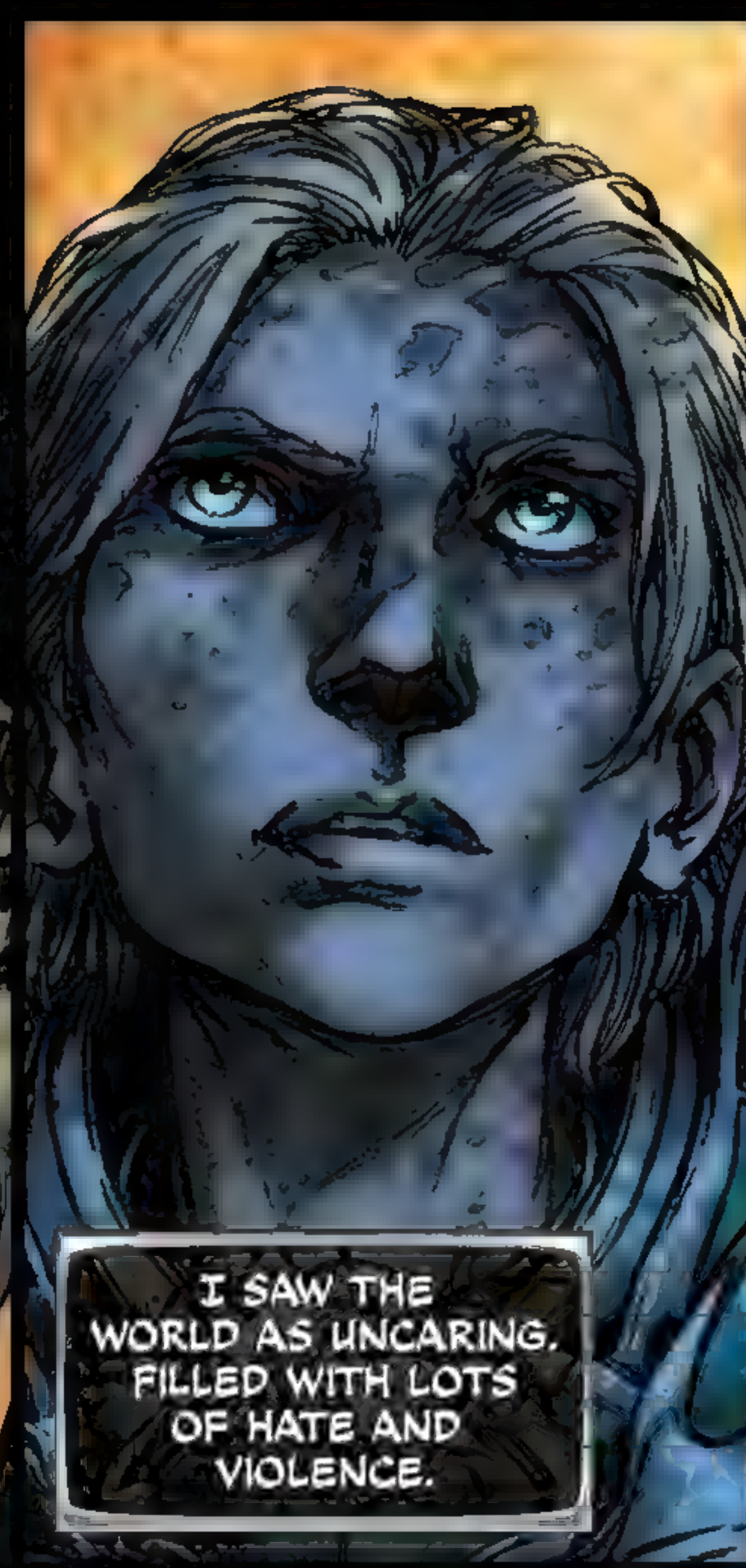


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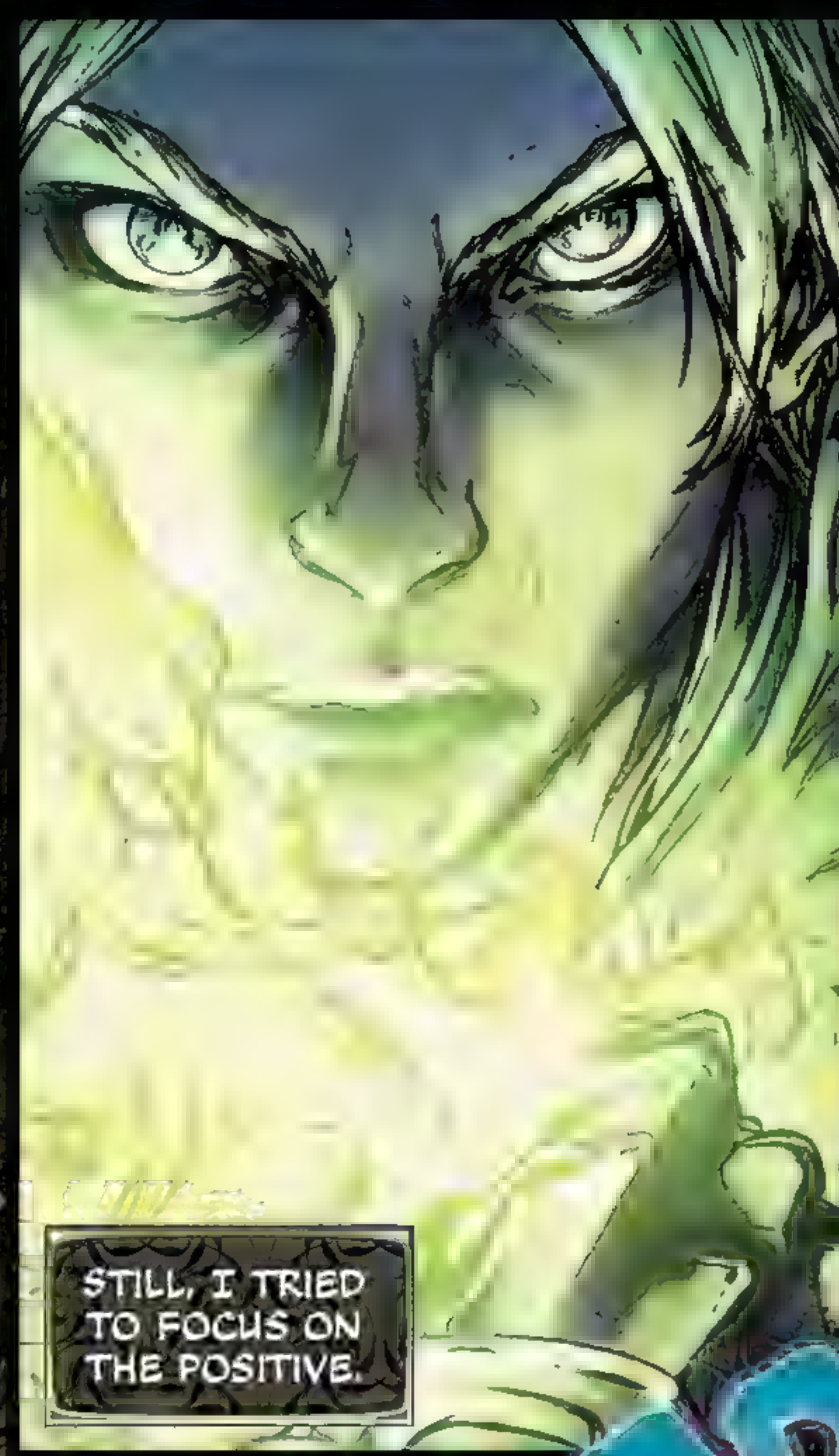
HERE WAS A  
TIME, I USED  
TO BE SCARED.



FEELING HELPLESS  
AND ALONE.



I SAW THE  
WORLD AS UNCARING.  
FILLED WITH LOTS  
OF HATE AND  
VIOLENCE.



STILL, I TRIED  
TO FOCUS ON  
THE POSITIVE.



THEN, I LEARNED A SECRET  
ABOUT THE WORLD. THAT THERE  
WAS MAGIC IN EVERYTHING AND  
EVERYONE. IF ONLY YOU KNEW  
WHERE TO LOOK.

AND I UNLOCKED THAT MAGIC  
INSIDE OF ME AND DISCOVERED  
THAT I WAS NOT HELPLESS. FAR  
FROM IT. AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY...



... THAT I WAS  
NOT ALONE.

SHAKA ZAN,  
BABY!

WHAT IS  
THAT SUPPOSED  
TO BE? YOUR  
BATTLECRY?

YOU GOT  
SOMETHING  
BETTER,  
*BENOIST*?

ACTIONS  
OVER WORDS,  
*P.J.* EVERY  
TIME.

THANKS FOR  
THE ASSIST,  
GUYS. BUT, I  
GOT THIS.



YOU'RE PRETTY  
BADASS WITH THAT  
FLAMING SWORD,  
*MALIKAL*

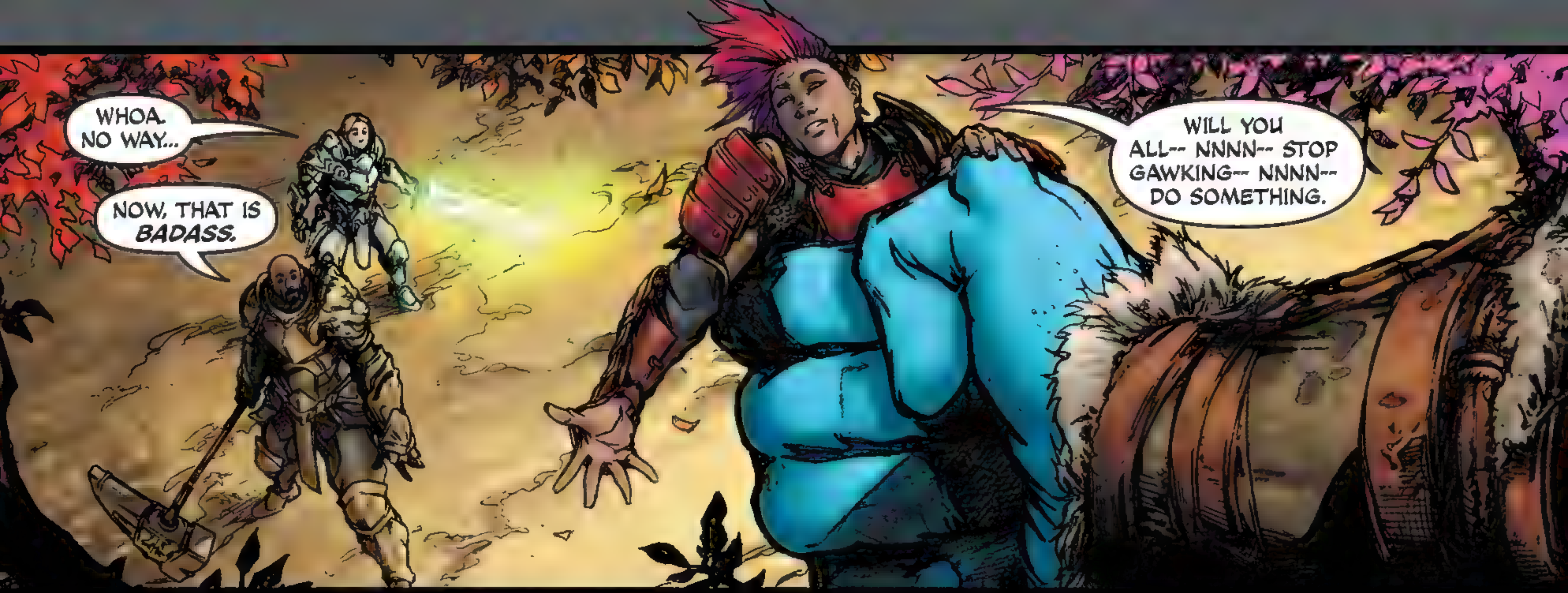
NEED TO  
GIVE IT A NAME.  
SOMETHING HOT.  
LIKE *CHILI CON  
CARVER*?

THINK  
I'M FINALLY  
GETTING THE  
HANG OF IT.

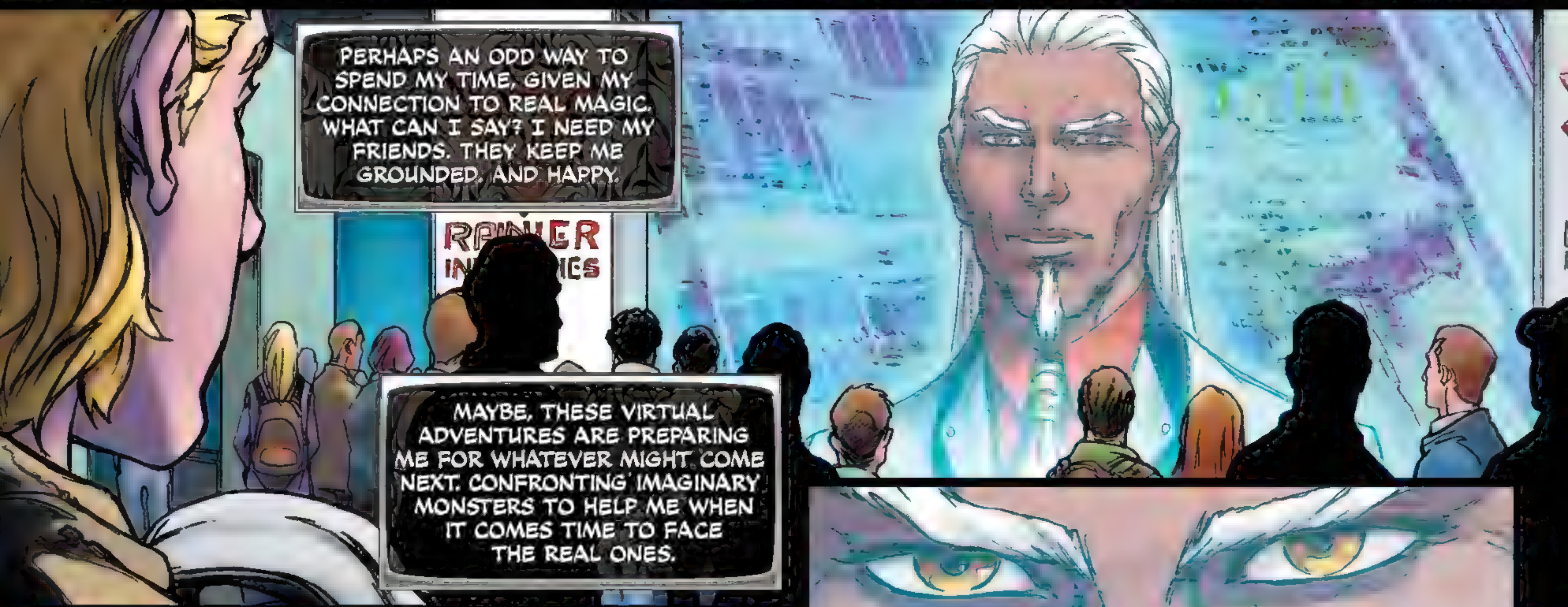
UGGH. JUST  
STOP. ANYBODY  
GOT A MUTE  
BUTTON FOR  
HIM?

I'LL DO  
YOU ONE  
BETTER.













YOU  
OKAY, MAL?  
YOU'RE BEING  
AWFULLY  
QUIET.

I'M FINE.  
TRYING TO ENJOY  
EASY DAYS LIKE THESE.  
WISH THEY WOULD LAST.  
TROUBLE ALWAYS  
SEEMS TO COME,  
THOUGH.

CUT YOURSELF SOME  
SLACK. STOP FEELING SO  
RESPONSIBLE ALL THE TIME.  
YOU DID YOUR PART AS THE  
**SAMASURA** OR WHATEVER. YOU  
SPARKED MAGIC BACK IN THE  
WORLD. IT'S NOT ALL ON YOUR  
SHOULDERS, MAL. YOU WERE  
MEANT TO BE A CATALYST  
NOT A KING.

TRY JUST BEING  
YOURSELF. A NICE  
GUY WITH A HEART  
OF GOLD. AND  
KINDA CUTE.

SOMETIMES, I  
WONDER WHERE I  
WOULD BE WITHOUT  
SONIA REMINDING  
ME THAT THERE'S  
STILL A LOT OF GOOD  
IN THE WORLD.

STILL A LOT  
OF LIGHT.

MAL!  
WAIT...

WHAT'S THE  
USE OF MAGIC,  
IF YOU CAN'T USE  
IT TO TRAVEL  
IN STYLE?

BUT, PEOPLE  
WILL SEE.

YEAH, BUT  
THEY WON'T  
BELIEVE IT.

MAL! HOW  
DO YOU LIKE  
THAT, BENOIST? LOOKS  
LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO  
SETTLE FOR THE  
SUBWAY.

YOU FORGET,  
P.J., WE MAKE  
OUR OWN KIND  
OF MAGIC.

SWEET!

WOO HOO!

IF ONLY I HAD FAITH  
THAT THE REST OF  
THE WORLD WOULD BE  
AS ACCEPTING AS MY  
FRIENDS' WHEN THE TRUTH  
ABOUT MAGIC IS FINALLY  
REVEALED. BUT, CHANGE  
DOES NOT COME EASY.



FOR ANYONE

THE EVERLANDS. THE KINGDOM OF ANANTIA.

FOR CENTURIES, I'VE FOUGHT TO KEEP MAGIC FROM COMPLETELY DYING OUT. PRESERVING IT IN THIS HIDDEN REALM WHILE THE REST OF THE WORLD SUFFERED THROUGH THE DARK AGES.

I WATCHED AS DRAGONS DIED. AS KINGDOMS FELL. AS ONCE WARRING RACES-- THE **RAHTUMI** AND THE **SETHORU**-- CAME TOGETHER OUT OF NECESSITY IF NOT PEACE.

THROUGH IT ALL, WE'VE KEPT THE OUTSIDE WORLD AT BAY. WE'VE ENDURED BLOODTHIRSTY TYRANTS, TRAITORS IN OUR MIDSTS, THE EVILS OF SHADOW MAGIC, EVEN THE DARKNESS OF THE CHAOS ITSELF.

WE'RE STILL HERE. STILL FIGHTING. READY FOR MAGIC TO FLOURISH ONCE MORE.

AND, I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'M GOING TO LET IT ALL BE THREATENED BY OF ALL THINGS.



...AN  
OUTSIDER.

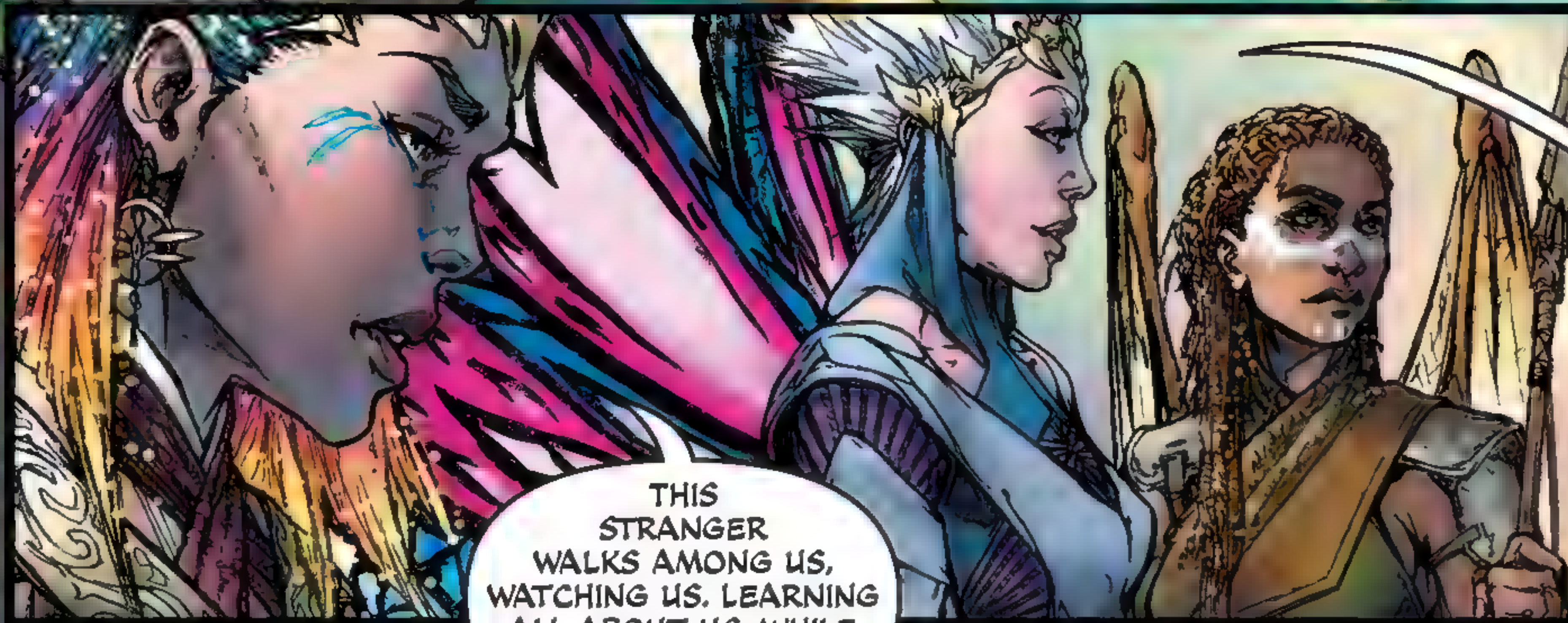
OUR GUEST  
SEEMS TO BE  
SETTLING IN.  
WOULDN'T YOU  
SAY, *GRACE*?

BUT,  
YOU SAW SHE  
NEEDED HELP. YOU  
BROUGHT HER  
HERE.

I WOULD  
NOT CALL HER  
THAT, *FAYE*. NOT JUST  
YET. WE KNOW NOTHING  
OF WHERE THEY CAME  
FROM OR WHAT THEIR  
INTENTIONS ARE.

WHAT I  
SAW WAS THE  
PEOPLE OF THE  
WATER UNABLE  
TO NEUTRALIZE  
THE THREAT.

I SOUGHT TO  
PUT A STOP TO THE  
DANGER. CONTAIN IT. NOT  
LET IT ROAM UNHINDERED  
THROUGH OUR REALM, *MIYA*.  
THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU  
TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER.  
AND OUR QUEEN.



THIS  
STRANGER  
WALKS AMONG US,  
WATCHING US. LEARNING  
ALL ABOUT US, WHILE  
WE LEARN NOTHING  
OF HER.

I SEE NO  
NEED FOR SUCH  
MEASURES. SHE HAS  
SHOWN NO SIGNS OF  
AGGRESSION. SHE  
HAS BEEN SERENE,  
KEEPING TO HERSELF.  
IF ANYTHING, SHE IS  
THE ONE WHO  
IS SCARED.

YOU MAY TAKE  
COMFORT IN HER  
DISPOSITION...

BUT,  
IT IS HER SILENCE  
THAT I FIND MOST  
DANGEROUS.





I DON'T LIKE THIS IDEA.

YOU SAID YOU WANTED ANSWERS TO PUT YOUR WORRIES AT EASE. THIS IS THE BEST WAY.

IF THAT IS TRUE...



...I'D HATE TO SEE THE WORST.

GREETINGS, MY QUEEN. I AM HUMBLLED BY YOUR VISIT. AND, GRACE AND MIYA AS WELL. WHAT AN HONOR. HER MAJESTY'S MOST TRUSTED WARRIORS. THOUGH, YOUR PRESENCE MAKES ME SUSPECT YOU ARE IN NEED OF COUNSEL NOT COMBAT.

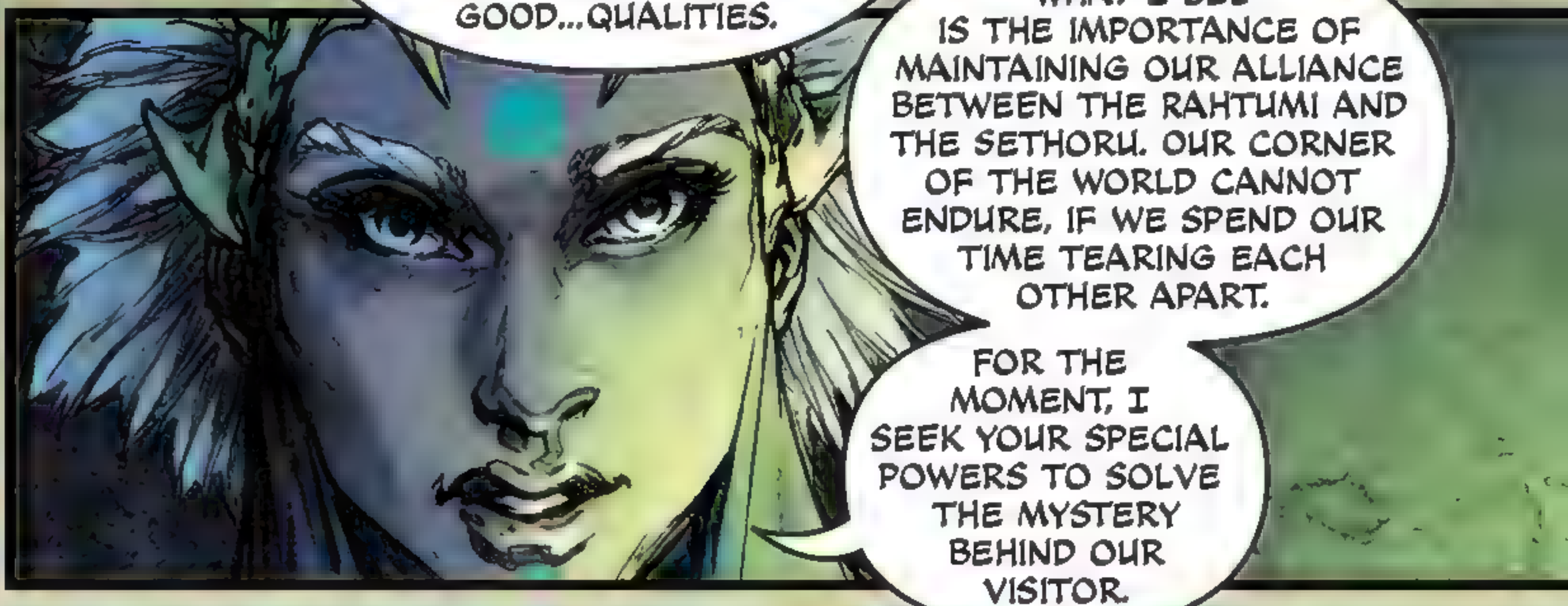
SAVE YOUR BREATH, *NISABA*. YOUR WORDS ARE JUST AS WICKED AS YOUR WAYS. WERE IT UP TO ME, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH LONG AGO.



ALWAYS SO QUICK TO JUDGE, GRACE. IT MUST BE COMFORTING TO HAVE SUCH CONFIDENCE IN ONE'S RIGHTEOUSNESS. BASKING IN YOUR CERTAINTY. LUCKY FOR ME I SUPPOSE THAT OUR QUEEN DOES NOT SHARE YOUR RIGID STANCE. SHE SEES MY GOOD AND...LESS GOOD...QUALITIES.

WHAT I SEE IS THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING OUR ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE RAHTUMI AND THE SETHORU. OUR CORNER OF THE WORLD CANNOT ENDURE, IF WE SPEND OUR TIME TEARING EACH OTHER APART.

FOR THE MOMENT, I SEEK YOUR SPECIAL POWERS TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY BEHIND OUR VISITOR.



ALWAYS HAPPY TO ENLIGHTEN THOSE WHO HAVE TROUBLE SEEING THE TRUTH. IT'S ALL RIGHT, STRANGE ONE. I WILL BE GENTLE WITH YOUR MIND.

WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW OF THE TRUTH, WITCH?

GRACE, QUIET. LET *NISABA* BE.





OURS IS A COMPLEX  
WORLD. A GREAT SPHERE,  
SEPARATED BY LAYERS.  
NOT ONLY IN TIME, BUT  
IN SPACE AS WELL.

FROM OUR ANCIENT  
WORLD. WHAT IT WAS  
AND WHAT REMAINS IN  
OUR HIDDEN REALM.

TO THE WIDER WORLD  
THAT MOST KNOW. HOW  
IT BEGAN AND HOW  
IT HAS CHANGED.

TO THE ONE BELOW. A  
WORLD OF BLUE THAT  
EVOLVED AT ITS OWN  
PACE. DEVELOPING ITS  
OWN POWERS. ITS OWN  
CIVILIZATION.

CONTINUING EVEN  
DEEPER. WHERE THOSE OF  
*THE BLACK* DWELL IN THE  
DARKNESS. LINKED TO THE  
BLUE THROUGH HISTORY AND  
PERHAPS EVEN MYTHOLOGY.

YET, THIS ONE HERE IS  
NOT FROM ANY OF THESE  
WORLDS. SHE COMES FROM  
SOMEPLACE FURTHER DOWN.  
BEYOND MY REACH. BEYOND  
EVEN THE DARKNESS ITSELF.

IN THE VERY CENTER.  
THE UNKNOWN. A SECRET  
PLACE WITH NO NAME.





IT HAS A NAME. AS DO I. **ANIZAN**.

ANIZAN? THAT'S YOUR NAME? AND, YOU SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE?

WHICH MEANS YOU HAVE BEEN EAVESDROPPING ALL ALONG.



NO. IT TOOK ME TIME TO LEARN IT. JUST A BIT, THOUGH. IT IS RATHER SIMPLISTIC.

AS I SAID, MY HOME HAS A NAME. COMPLETELY FOREIGN TO YOUR TONGUE. YOU MIGHT CALL IT SOMETHING ELSE. THE GREAT BENEATH. THE HEART.

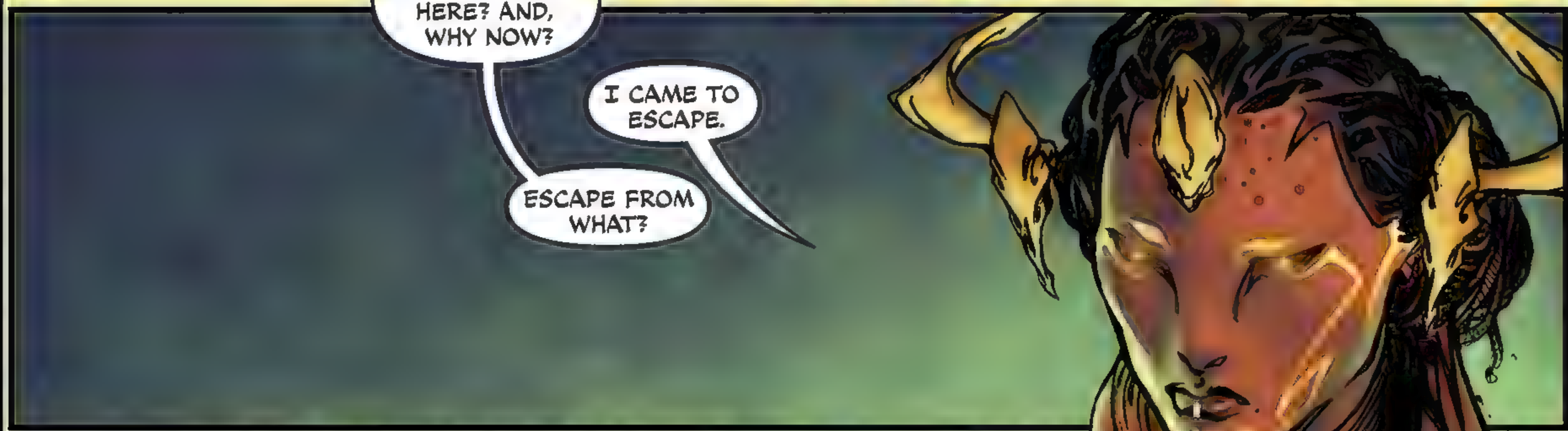
**THE CORE.**

AN ENTIRE WORLD UNTO ITSELF. EXISTING BEYOND ALL THAT YOU KNOW AND SEE. DEEP IN THE CENTER. SEPARATE AND YET CONNECTED AS WELL. TO EVERYTHING. TO THE BEGINNING OF LIFE ITSELF.

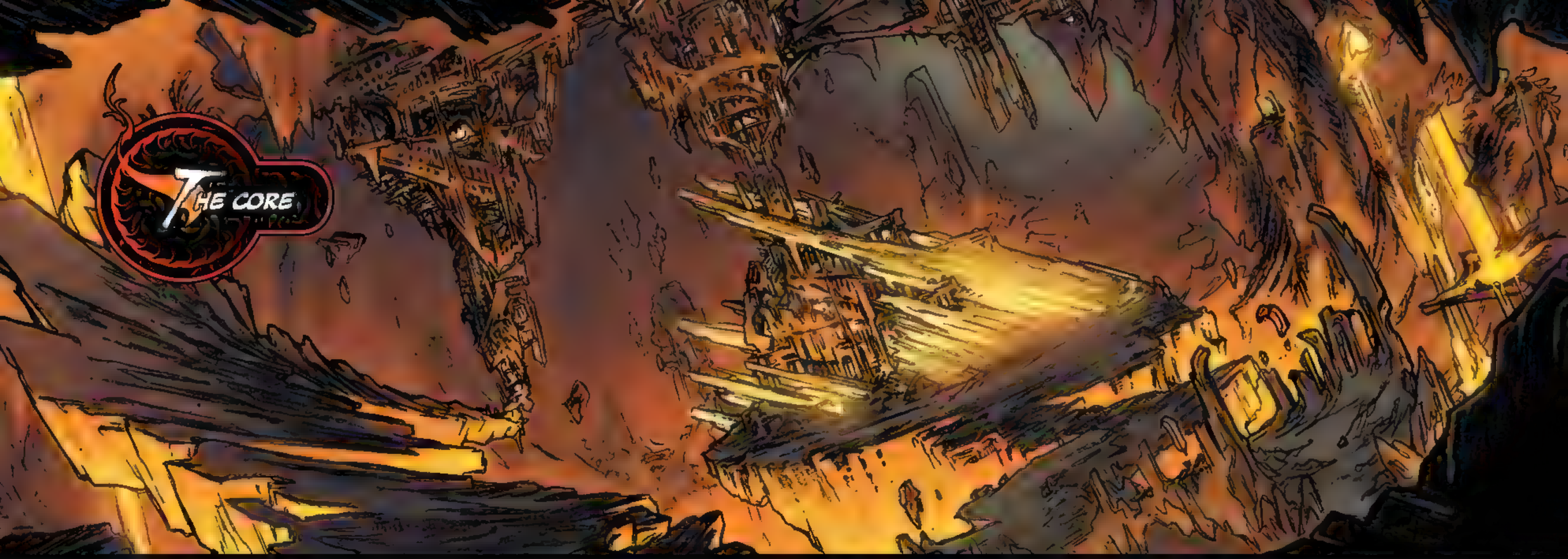
THEN, WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE? AND, WHY NOW?

I CAME TO ESCAPE.

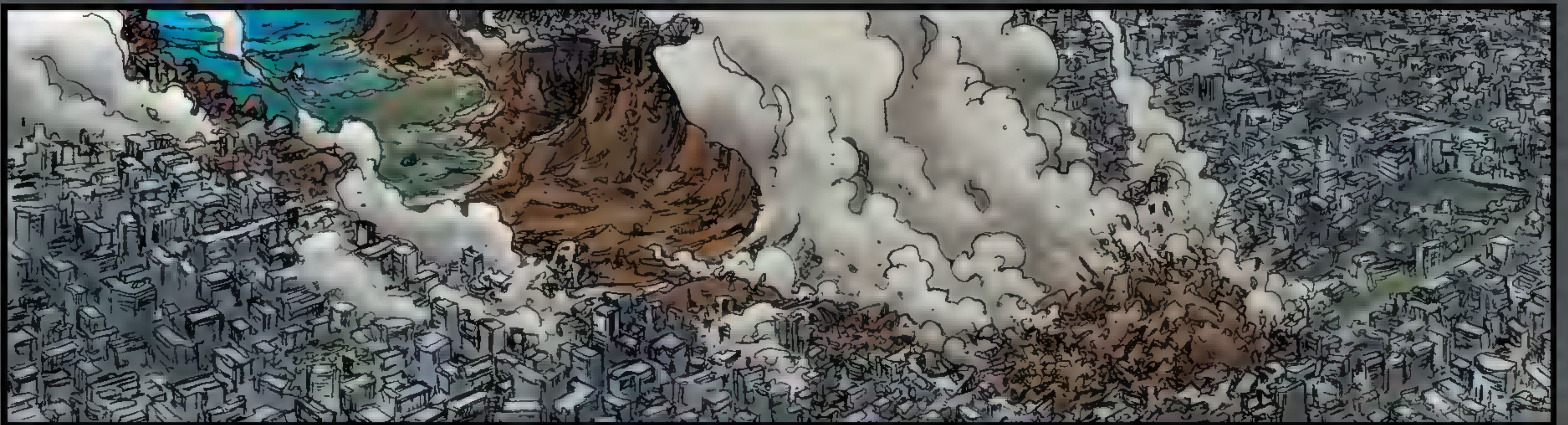
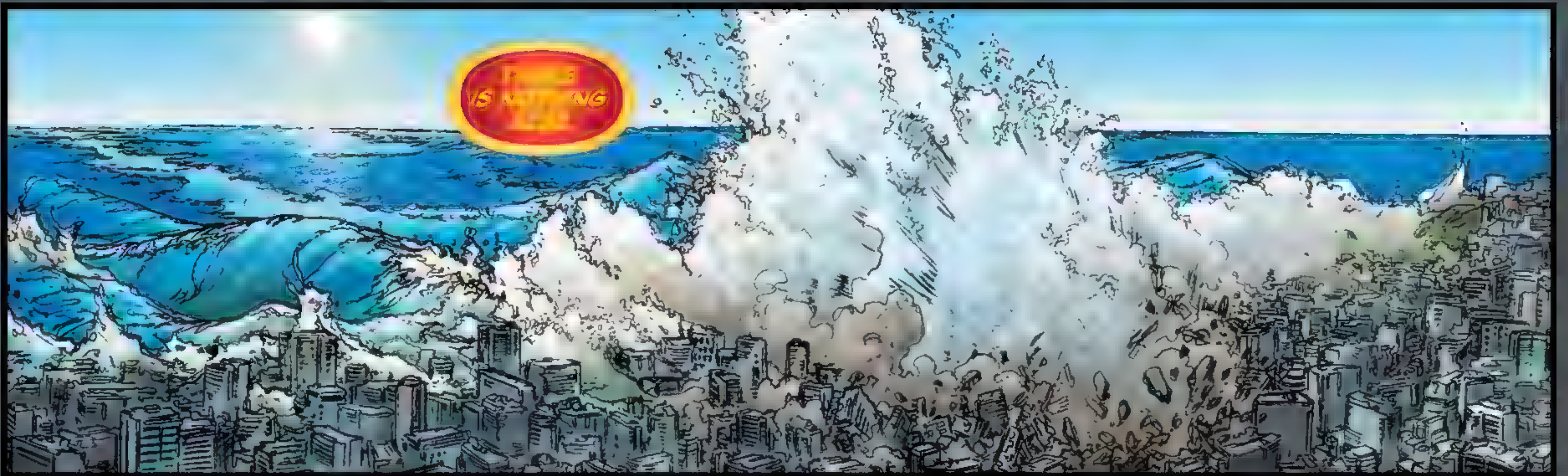
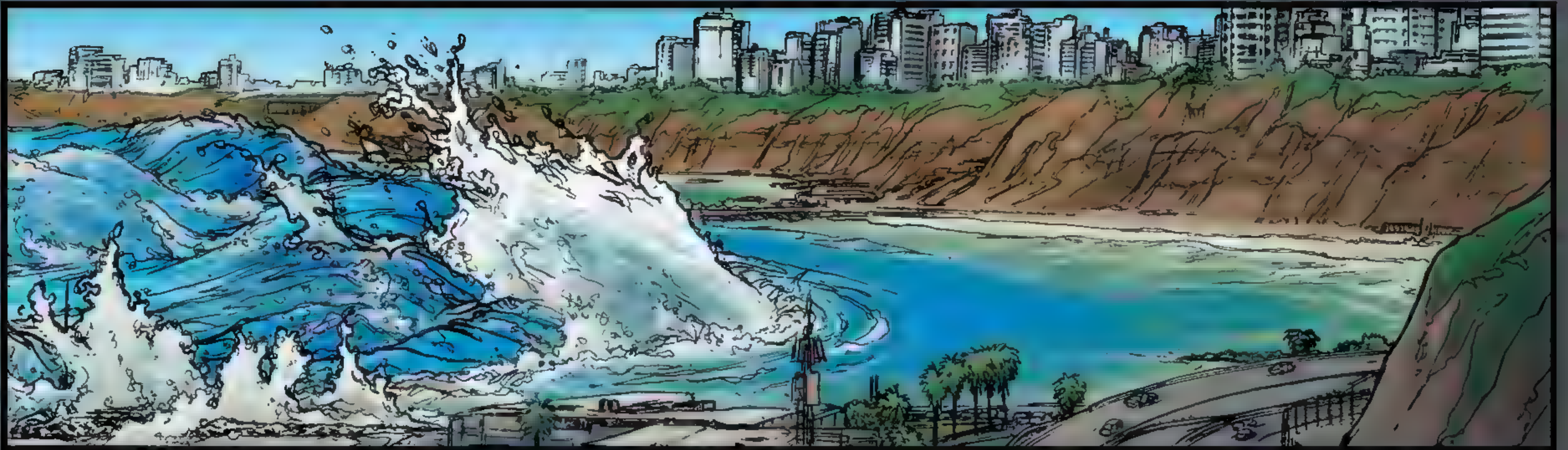
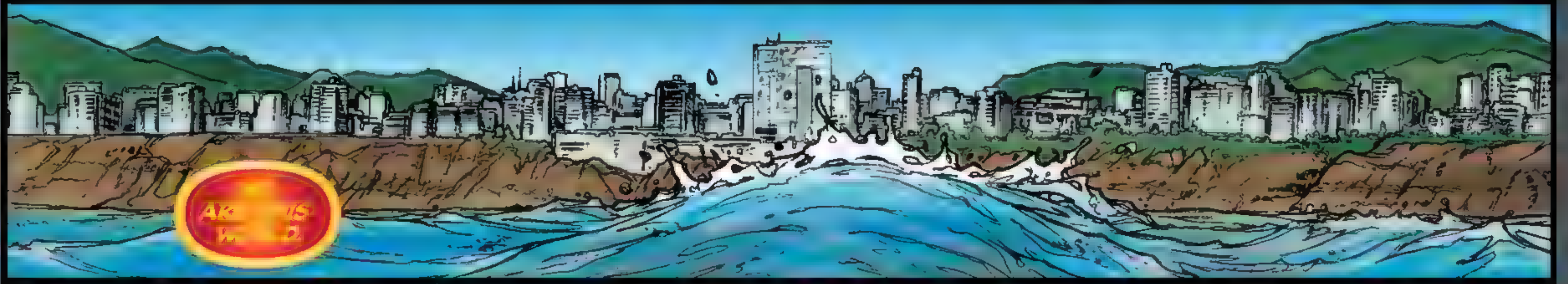
ESCAPE FROM WHAT?















WHAT  
A WASTE,  
SONIA.

MUST BE A  
DOZEN SOCCER  
MATCHES ON RIGHT  
NOW. YOU GOT THE BEST  
TELEVISION ON THE MARKET,  
MODIFIED BY ME AND  
BENOIST FOR EVEN HIGHER  
RESOLUTION. AND, YOU'RE  
WASTING IT ON SOME  
CHICK-FLICK FROM  
THE EIGHTIES.

DON'T  
LOOK AT  
ME. MAL'S  
GOT THE  
REMOTE.

SHHH. I  
LOVE THIS  
PART.

BECAUSE I CAN'T  
AFFORD TO HAVE YOU  
HATE ME, KEITH. THE ONLY  
THINGS I CARE ABOUT IN  
THIS DAMN LIFE ARE  
ME AND MY DRUMS...  
AND YOU.

AND YOU  
KEEP TINKERING  
AWAY ON WHATEVER  
*THAT* IS SUPPOSED TO  
BE, WHEN YOU SHOULD  
BE HELPING ME FINISH MY  
JETBOOTS. IF I DIDN'T  
KNOW ANY BETTER,  
I'D SAY YOU WERE  
BUILDING A  
HAMMER.

YOU LACK  
IMAGINATION,  
P.J., NOT  
A HAMMER.  
A SUPER  
HAMMER.

AFTER THE  
MOVIE, WE'LL HAVE  
MORE ON THE BIZARRE  
SEISMIC ACTIVITY THAT  
ROCKED THE SOUTH  
AMERICAN COASTLINE.  
COULD CALIFORNIA  
FACE A SIMILAR  
FATE? FIND OUT ON  
NEWS AT TEN!

KING NEWS

**BIG ONE GETTIN**

OH, MY GOD.  
THAT DOESN'T  
LOOK LIKE ANY  
EARTHQUAKE I'VE  
EVER SEEN.

DOESN'T LOOK  
NATURAL.

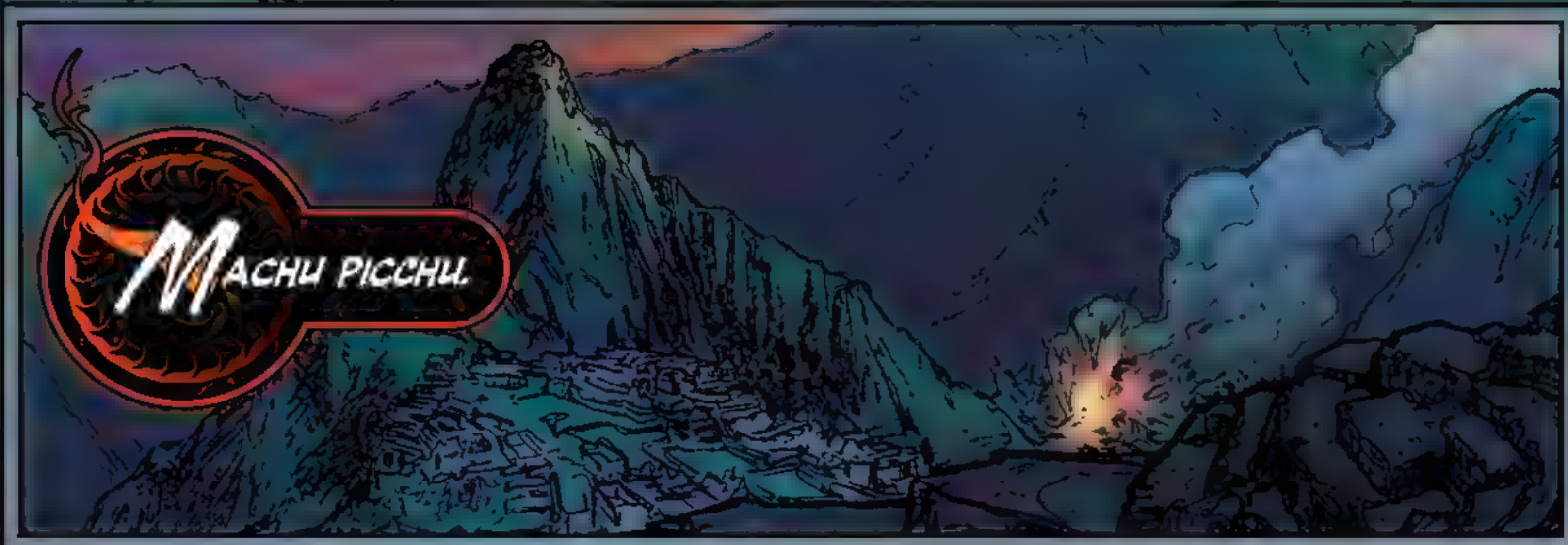
YOU MAY BE  
RIGHT. IT'S NOT  
FOLLOWING ANY  
FAULT LINE. IN FACT,  
IT'S GOING IN A  
STRAIGHT LINE.

GOING? YOU  
MEAN, IT'S STILL  
HAPPENING?

YEP.  
HEADED RIGHT  
FOR MACHU  
PICCHU.

AND THE  
GATEWAY  
TO THE  
EVERLANDS.





MACHU PICCHU



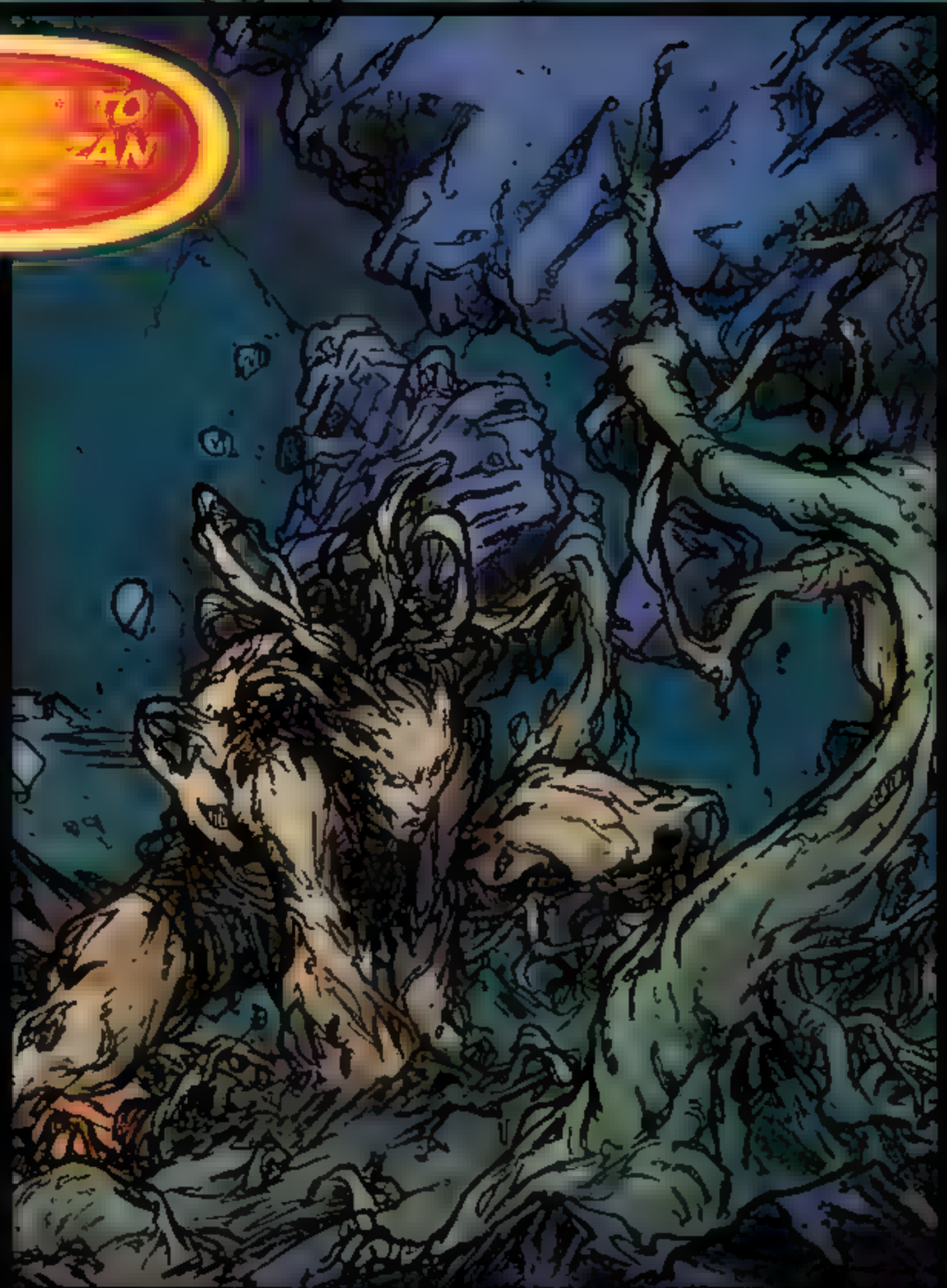
COLD HERE.  
AWAY FROM  
THE CORE.

DO NOT  
WORSHIP  
THE  
CORE.

BURN  
BRIGHT. BURN.  
BURN. BURN.



ONLY  
ONE  
TO  
REACH  
ANIZAN.



WHAT  
END  
OF  
POWER  
IS  
THIS?

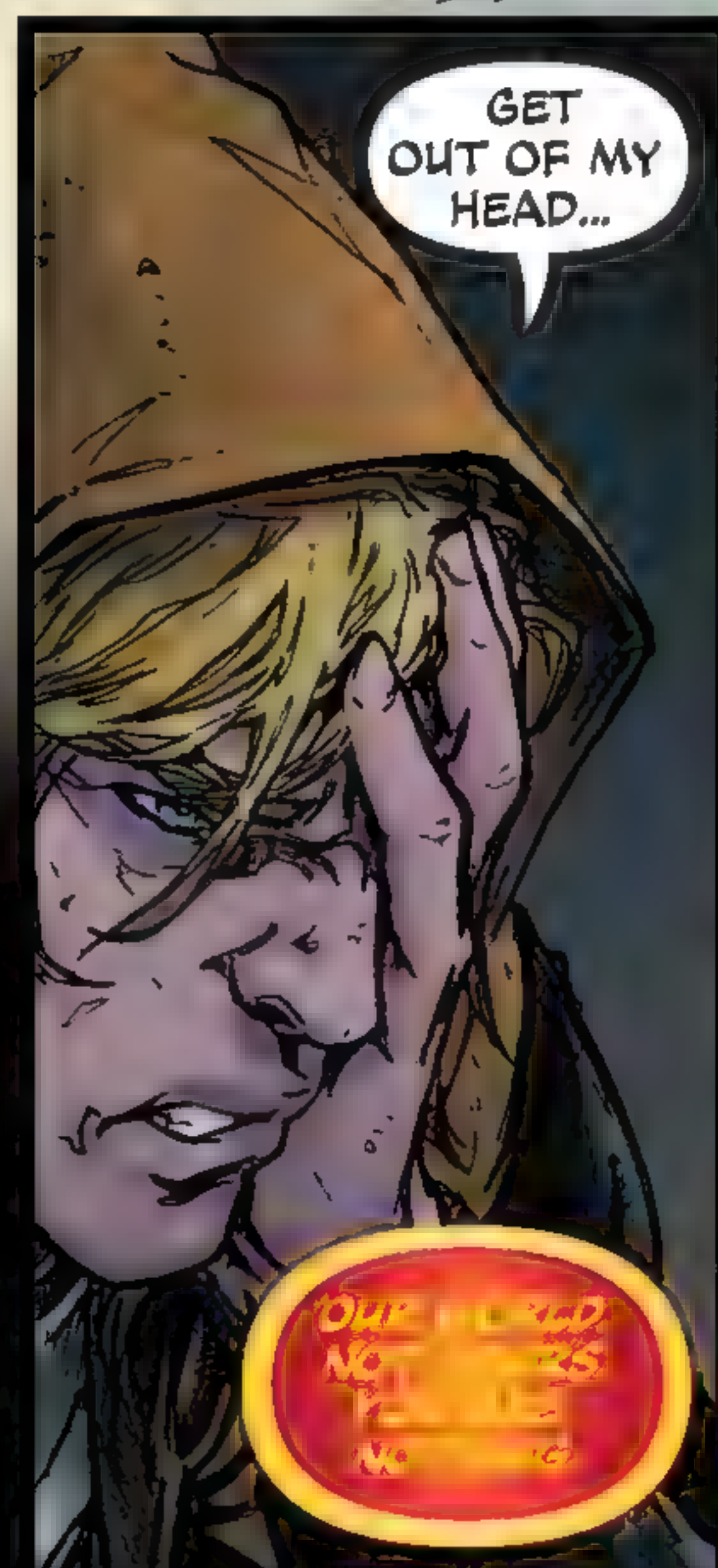
I CAN  
FEEL  
THE  
CORE  
BEHIND  
IT.  
ANIZAN.



ANIZAN!

HATE TO  
BREAK IT  
TO YOU...



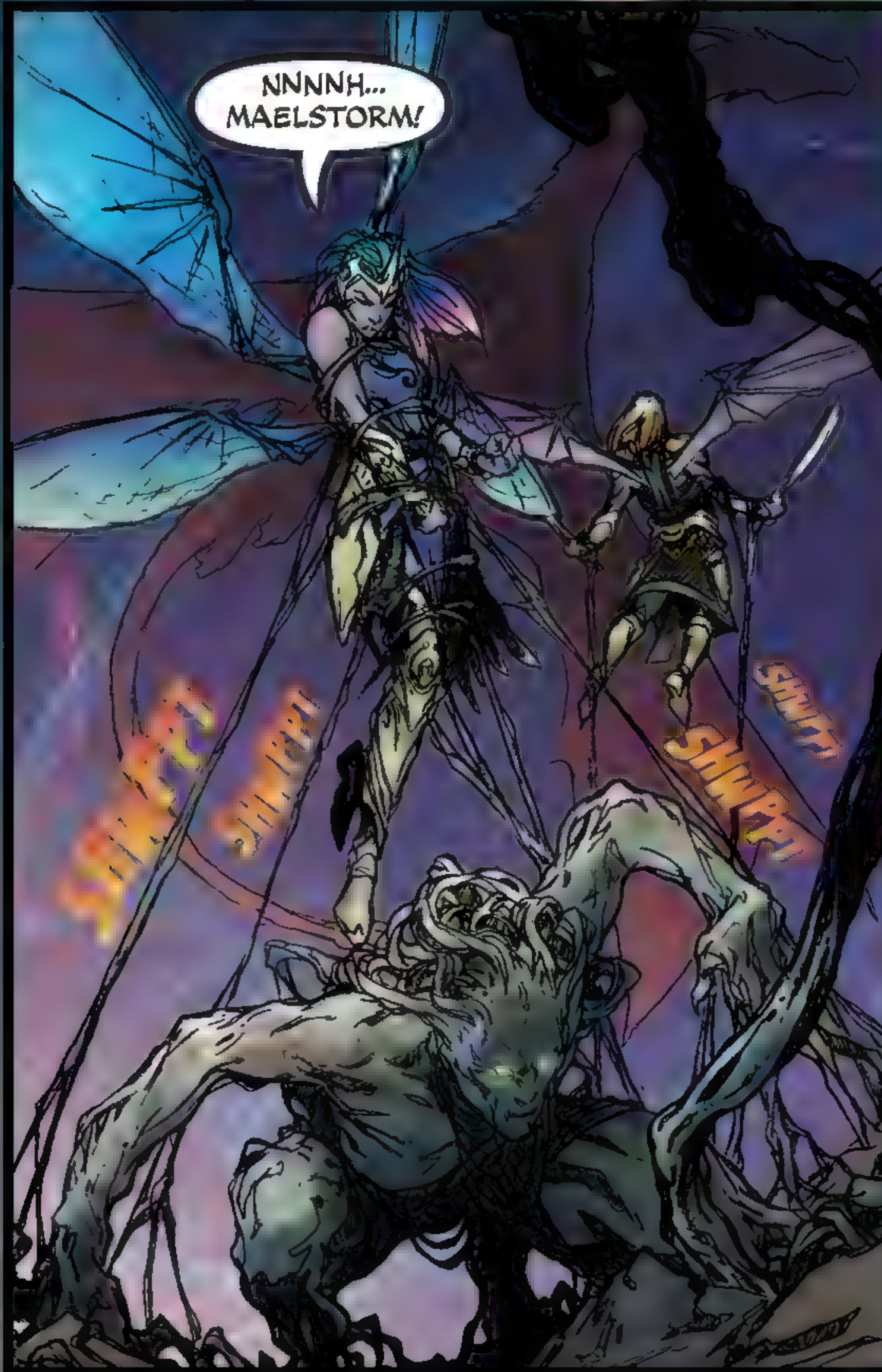




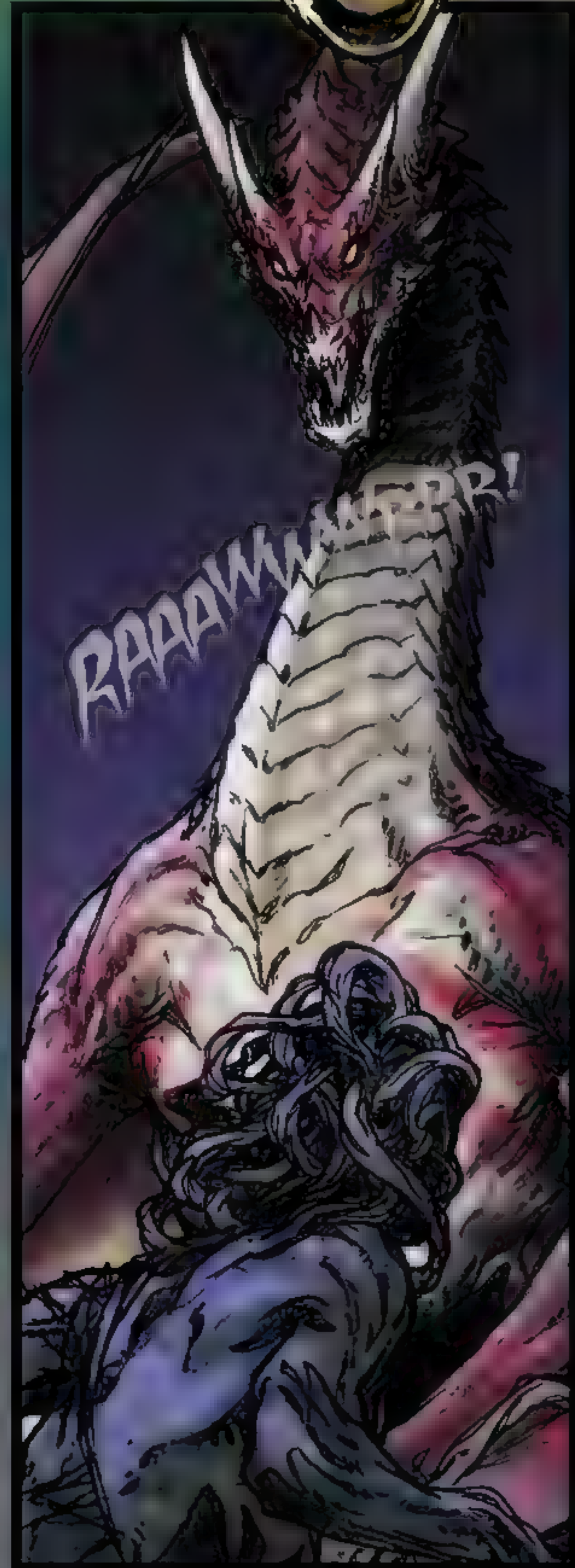


HIS POWER  
COMES FROM A  
MUCH DARKER  
PLACE.

AND WE  
AIM TO SEND  
HIM BACK.



NNNNH...  
MAELSTORM!



RAAAWWWW!



THAT'S  
ONE DOWN.

KRRRRNNCH



WE  
ARE NOT  
ONE.



WE  
ARE  
INFINITE.

UH-OH. I  
THINK WE'RE ABOUT  
TO BE WOEFULLY  
OUTNUMBERED.





WELL,  
THIS IS  
NUTS.



THEY  
DON'T SEEM  
AS STRONG AS  
THE REAL  
ONE.



THINK  
THEY'RE GOING  
FOR QUANTITY  
NOT QUALITY.



GOTTA STAY  
TOGETHER. SOMEONE  
COULD GET LOST IN  
THE MAYHEM.



THIS IS  
POINTLESS.  
THEY KEEP  
REFORMING  
EACH TIME WE  
DEMOLISH  
THEM.

IT'S ALSO A  
DISTRACTION.  
THERE'S THE  
REAL MENACE.

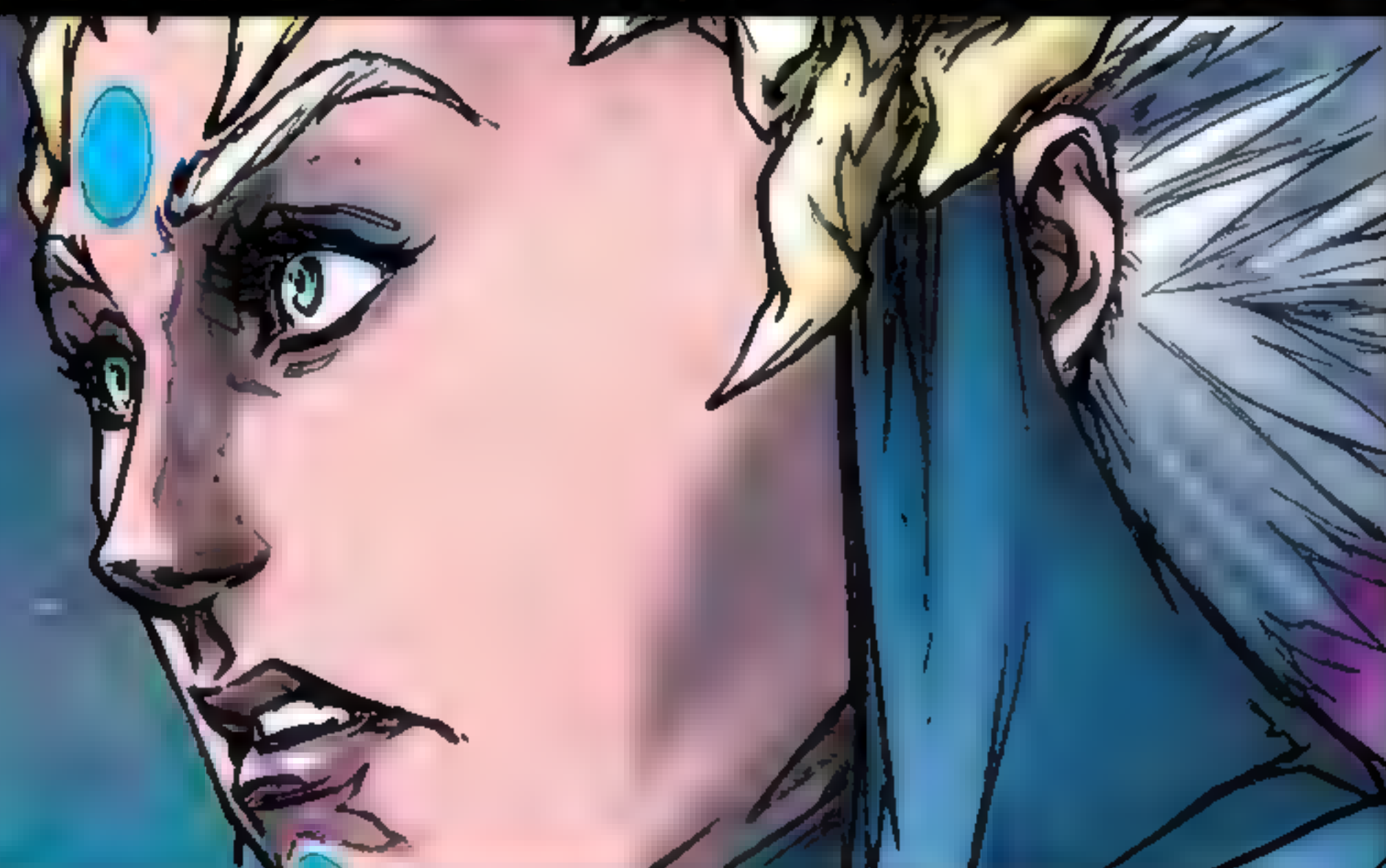


WELL,  
THAT'S A  
MERE DISTRACTION  
IN YOUR FIGHT.  
I'LL BE BACK  
MORE THAN  
THAT.









GONE?  
WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN  
GONE?



JUST THAT. THE  
ENTIRE REGION BEYOND  
HAS BEEN DEVASTATED. LAID  
ASUNDER BY THEIR INCREDIBLE  
POWER. SO FAR, THE BARRIER IS  
HOLDING UP, BUT THIS ENEMY  
WILL NOT BE KEPT AT  
BAY FOR LONG.

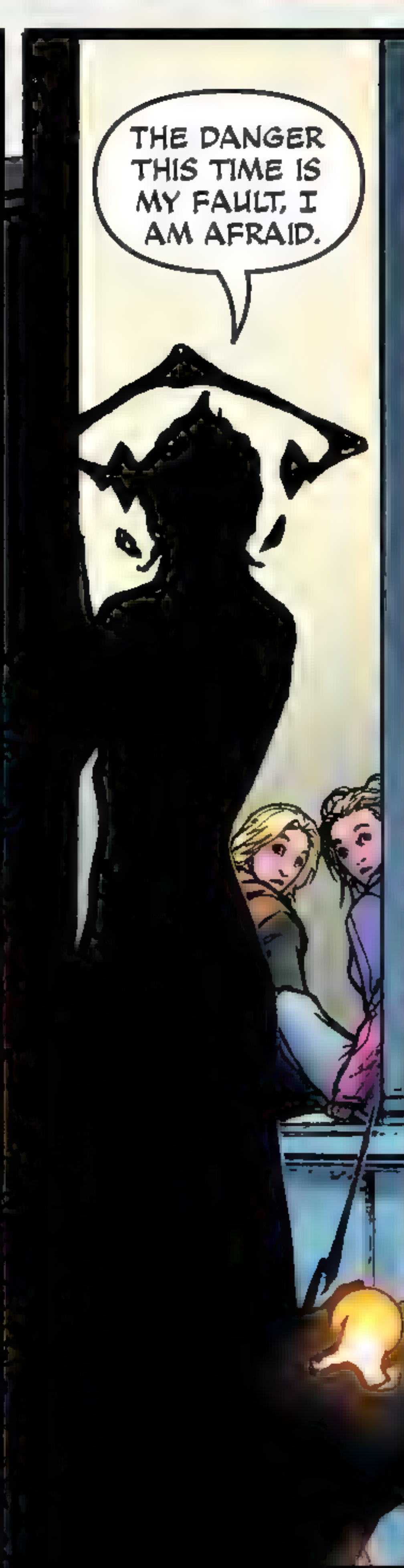
WHAT  
SHOULD  
WE DO?

THE ONLY  
THING WE CAN.  
GATHER ALL OUR  
FORCES. EVERY  
DRAGON. EVERY  
WARRIOR. STAND  
OUR GROUND.  
FIGHT.



THANK YOU  
FOR COMING  
TO OUR AID,  
MALIKAI.

NO PROBLEM.  
OF COURSE, IT  
WOULD BE NICE TO  
PAY JUST A REGULAR  
SOCIAL CALL. SEEMS LIKE  
EVERY TIME I COME  
HERE, I'M EITHER  
RUNNING FROM  
DANGER OR  
INTO IT.



THE DANGER  
THIS TIME IS  
MY FAULT, I  
AM AFRAID.



I HAVE  
BROUGHT  
THIS MISERY TO  
YOUR REALM. I  
SHOULD NOT  
BE HERE.

WHERE WOULD  
YOU GO, ANIZAN? OUT  
THERE? OUR MAGICAL  
BARRIER IS THE ONLY  
THING KEEPING YOUR  
PURSUERS FROM  
REACHING YOU.

HOLD ON.  
UNDER NORMAL  
CIRCUMSTANCES, I'D  
BE ALL ABOUT YOUR  
WHOLE MYSTIQUE,  
BUT WE GOT  
QUESTIONS,  
GIRL.

I AM  
ANIZAN. THOSE  
YOU FOUGHT WERE  
MY KIN. THEY HAVE  
COME FROM OUR  
HOMELAND IN  
THE CORE OF  
THE EARTH.

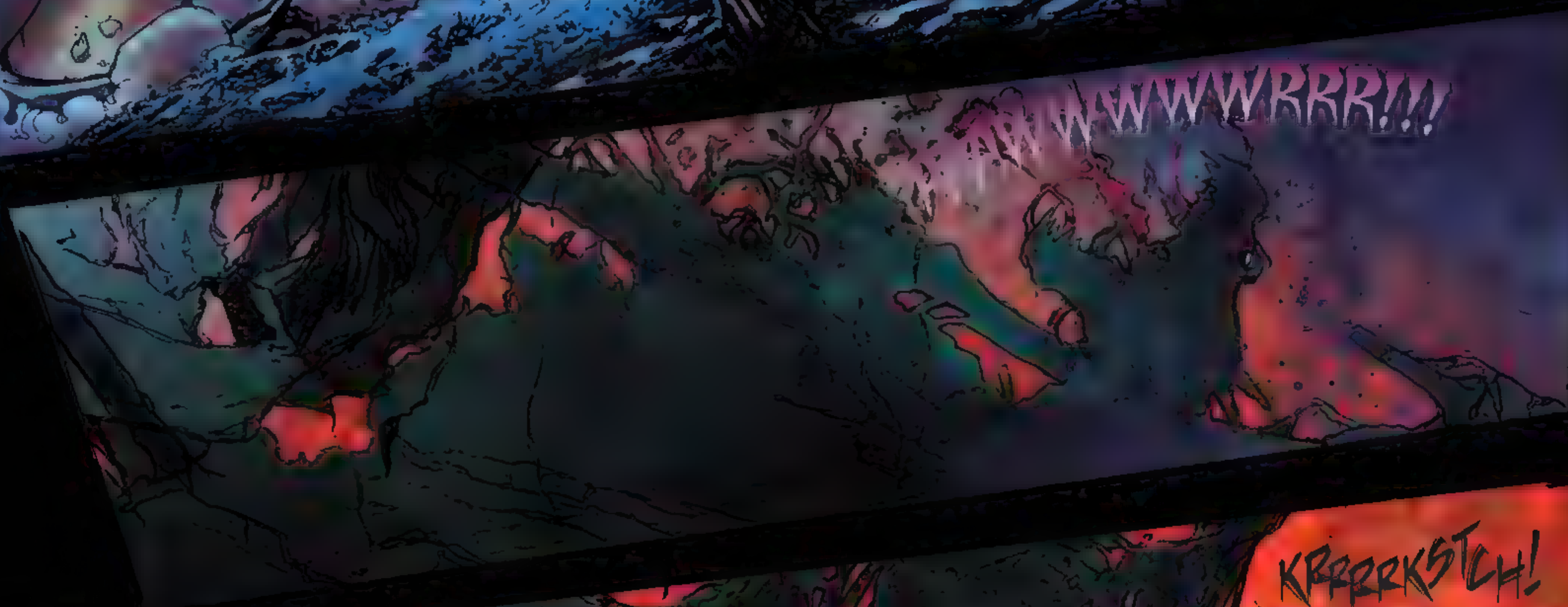
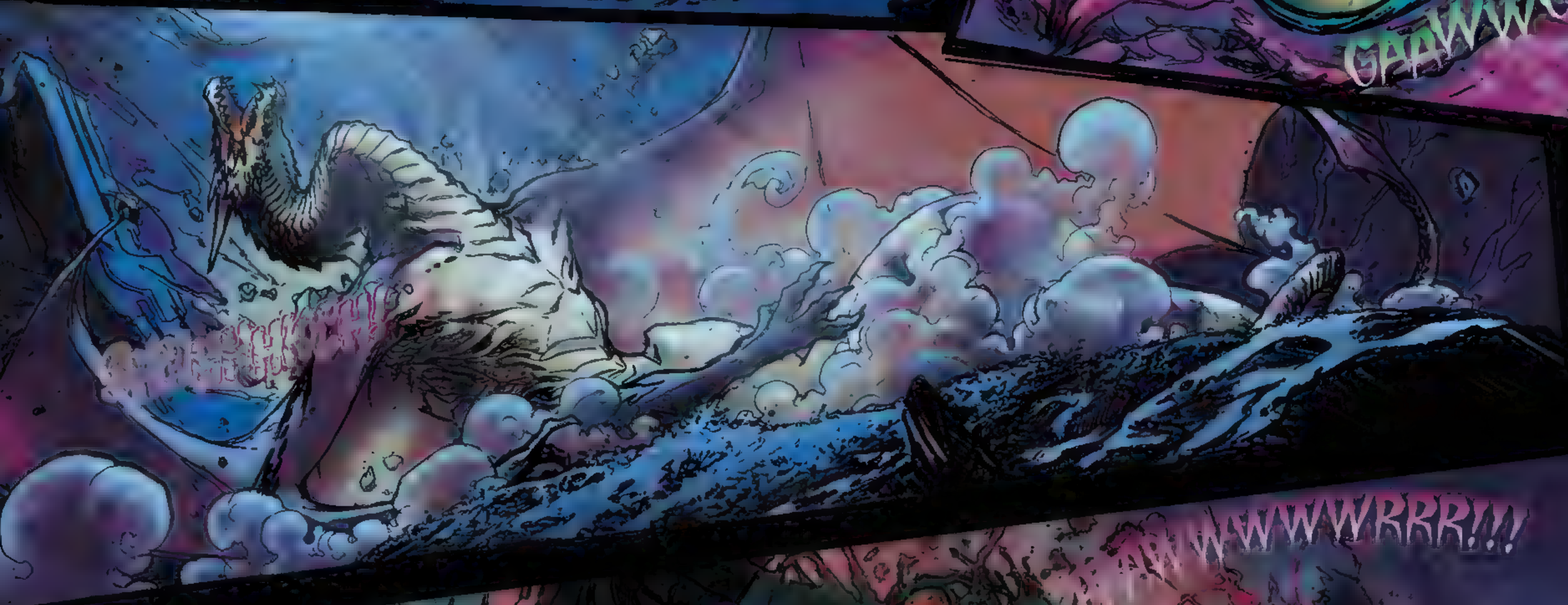
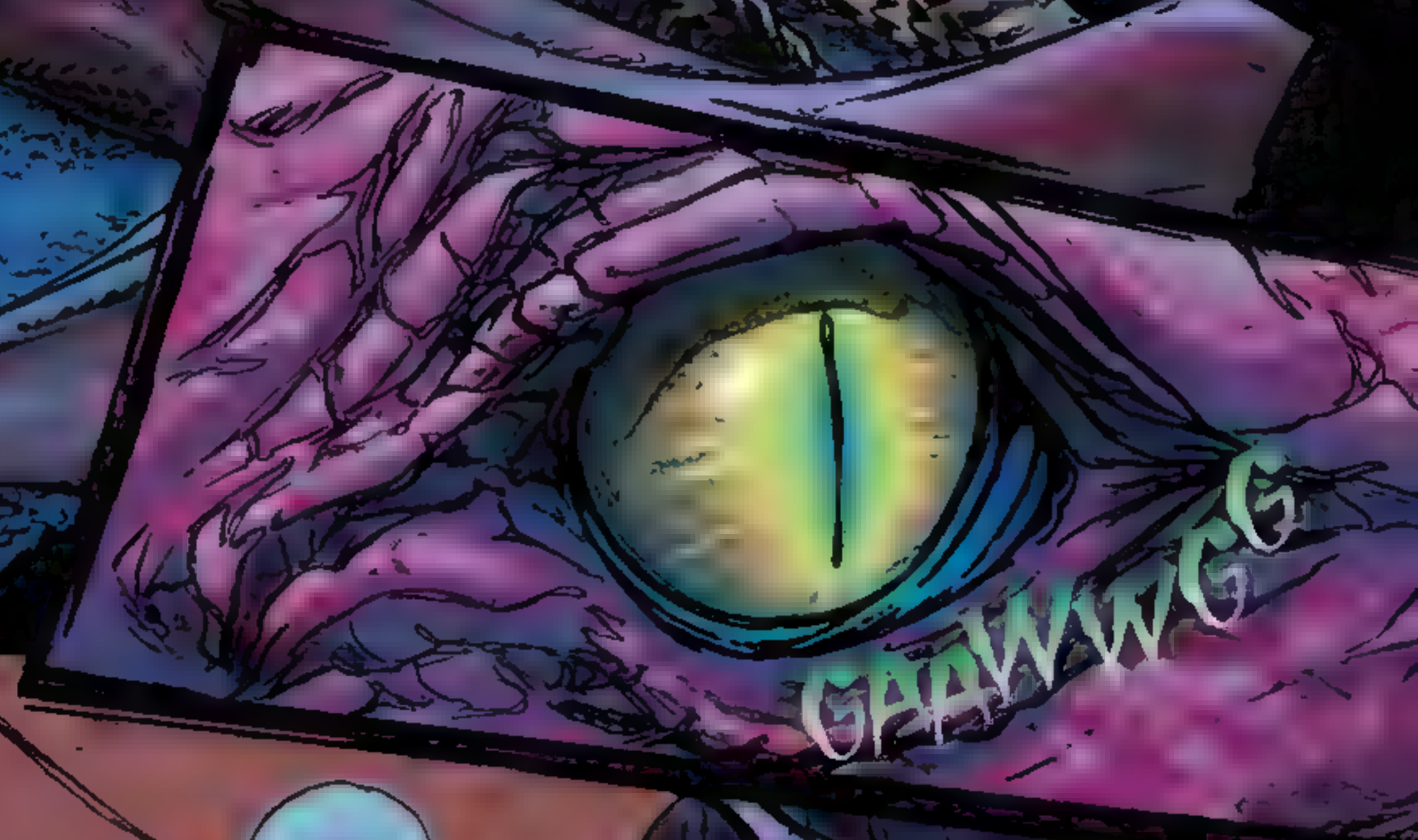
AND WHAT--  
THEY CAME  
TO TAKE YOU  
BACK?

NO. THEY  
WANT ME TO  
JOIN THEM IN  
FULFILLING  
OUR SACRED  
CALLING.

WHICH  
IS?



"TO  
DESTROY  
YOU ALL."



THE STORY CONTINUES IN THE  
NEXT EXCITING CHAPTER

SOULFIRE #2  
ON SALE  
NEXT MONTH!

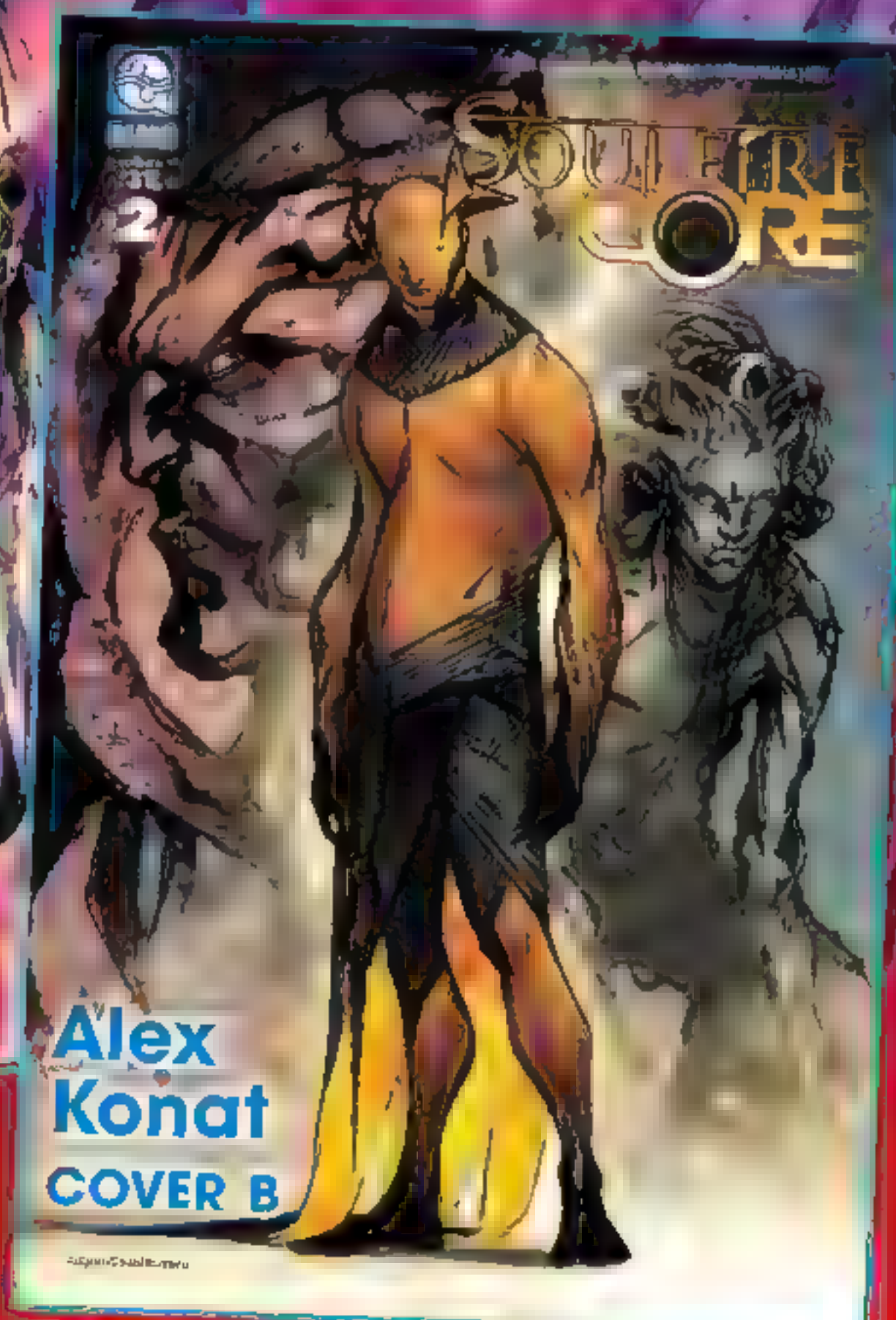
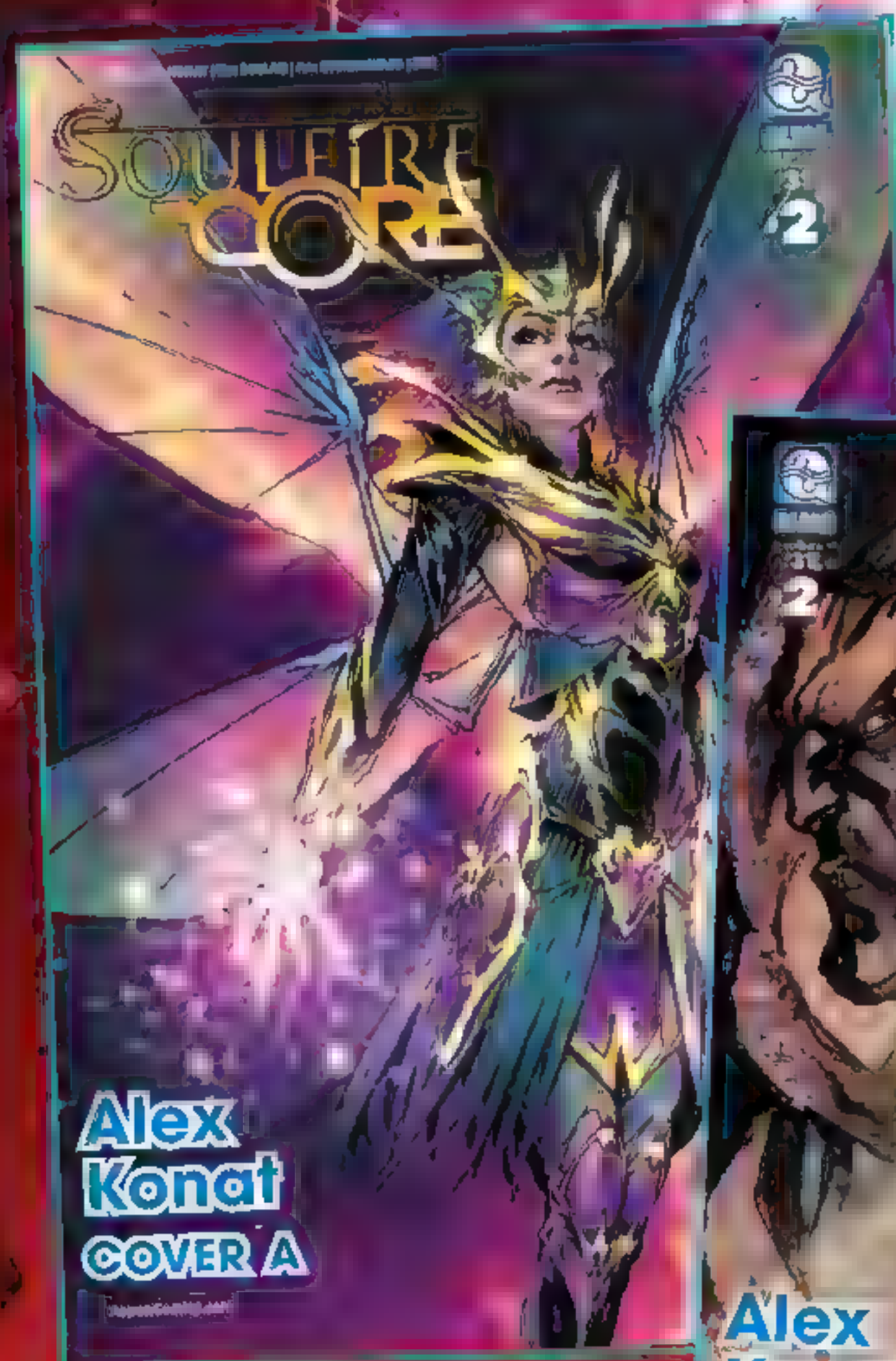


MICHAEL TURNER'S  
**SOULFIRE  
THE CORE**

NEXT ISSUE!

#**2**

ASPEN'S  
MOST AMBITIOUS  
SOULFIRE RELEASE  
**CONTINUES**  
IN THE SECOND  
ACTION-PACKED  
CHAPTER!



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COLOR ARTIST **PETER STEIGERWALD**  
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LETTERING **ZEN**  
SOULFIRE, NO WORLD

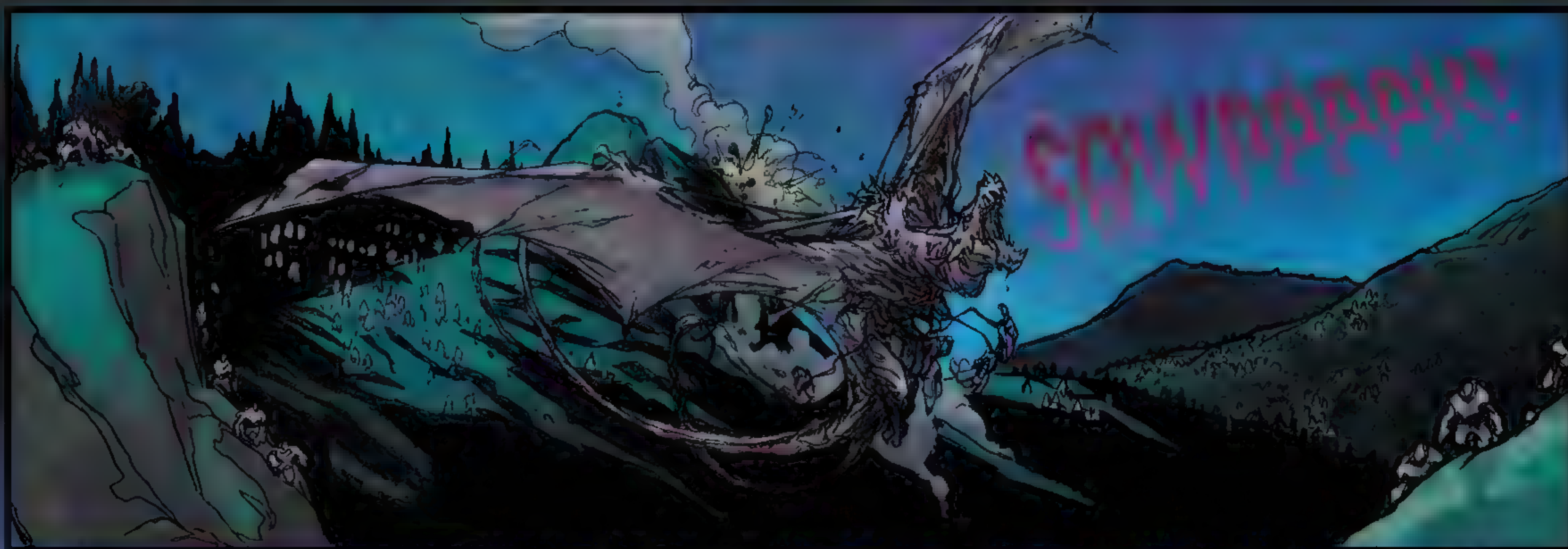
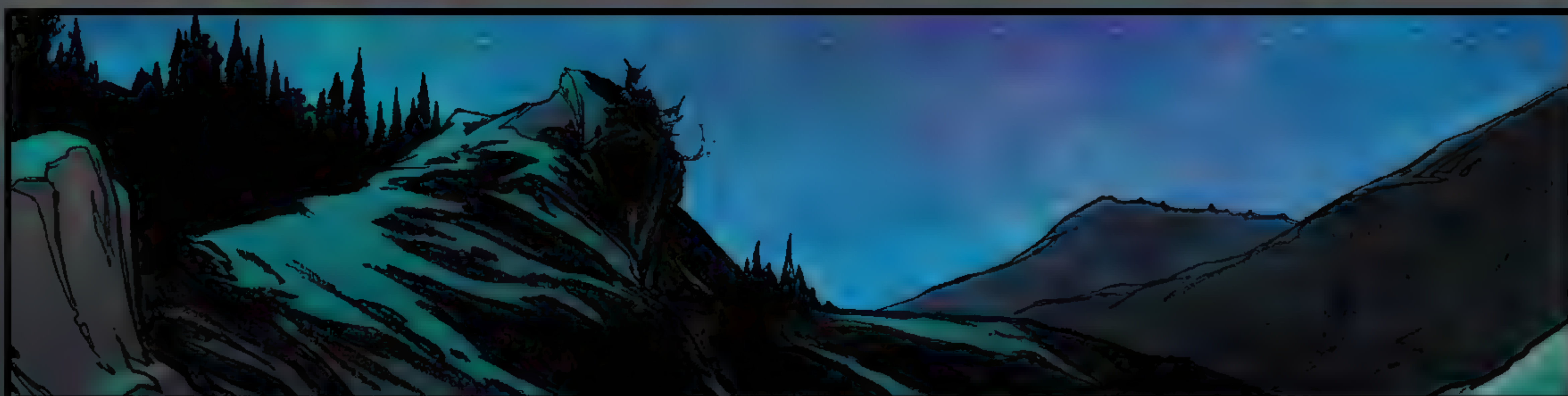
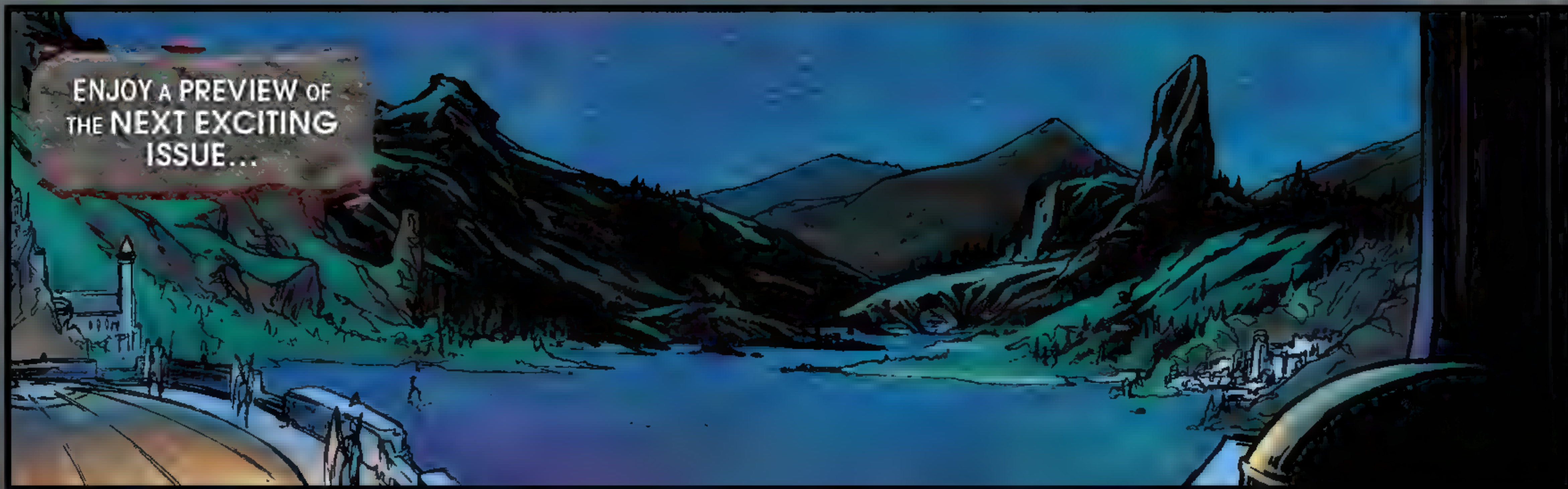
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**AVAILABLE  
NOW!**



ENJOY A PREVIEW OF  
THE NEXT EXCITING  
ISSUE...



TO BATTLE!  
THE ENEMY  
IS AT OUR  
GATES!

RAAAAAAAAAA!





WHICH IS AS FAR AS THEY WILL GET.

IT LOOKS LIKE MAELSTORM'S BEEN INFECTED. THEY ALL HAVE.

BE NICE IF ANIZAN HAD GIVEN US THE LOWDOWN ON THESE FOOLS.

TRIAL AND ERROR. P.J. FIND THE SWEET SPOT.

I'LL TRY. IT'S BEEN ALL DEFENSE FOR ME SO FAR. THEY'RE BIG, BUT THEY'RE FAST.

NICE, SONIA! OKAY. YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE ON MY TEAM THE NEXT TIME WE GAME.

WOW. I FEEL SO SPECIAL.

ARE THEY STILL ALIVE? STILL SUFFERING?

IS THERE ANY WAY TO SAVE THEM, ANIZAN?

ANIZAN?? SHE'S GONE.

THE ACTION CONTINUES IN SOULFIRE: THE CORE #2!



J.T. KRUL | Alex KONAT | Mark ROSLAN | Peter STEIGERWALD | ZEN

MICHAEL TURNER'S  
**SOULFIRE**  
THE **CORE**



aspen  
comics

COVER A

#**2**  
OF 2



J.T. KRUL | Alex KONAT | Mark ROSLAN | Peter STEIGERWALD | ZEN



aspen  
comics

COVER B

# SOULFIRE THE CORE

#2  
OF 2





# MICHAEL TURNER'S SOULFIRE THE CORE

ISSUE TWO OF TWO

writer

J.T. KRUL

pencils

ALEX KONAT

digital inks

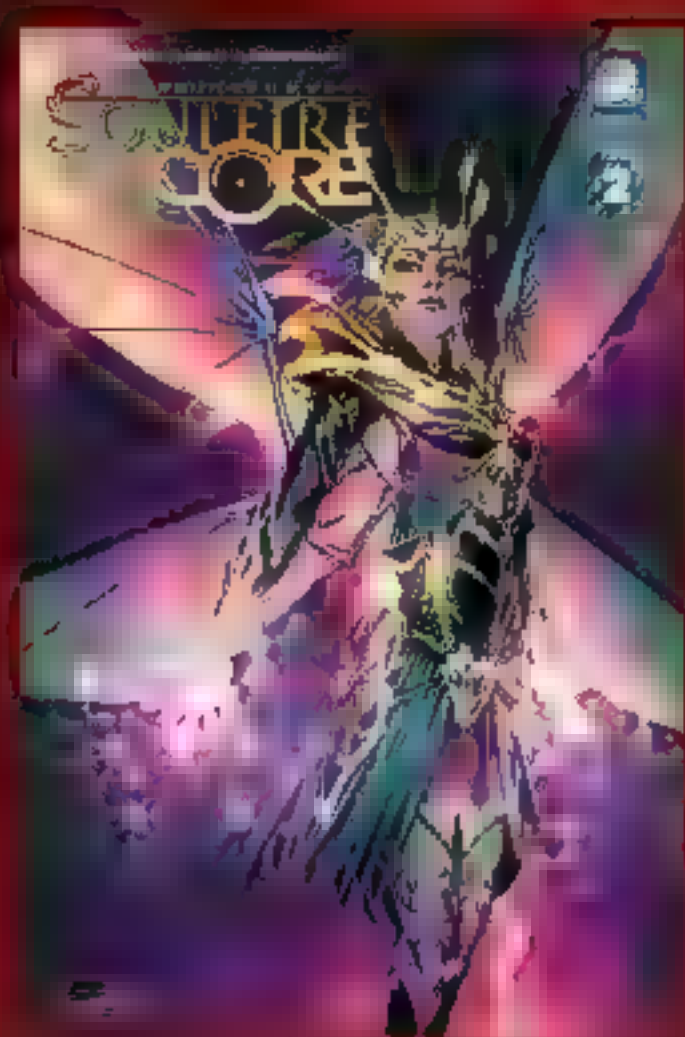
MARK ROSLAN

colors

PETER STEIGERWALD

letters

ZEN



**A**  
Direct Edition  
by - ALEX KONAT  
& - MARK ROSLAN  
& - PETER STEIGERWALD



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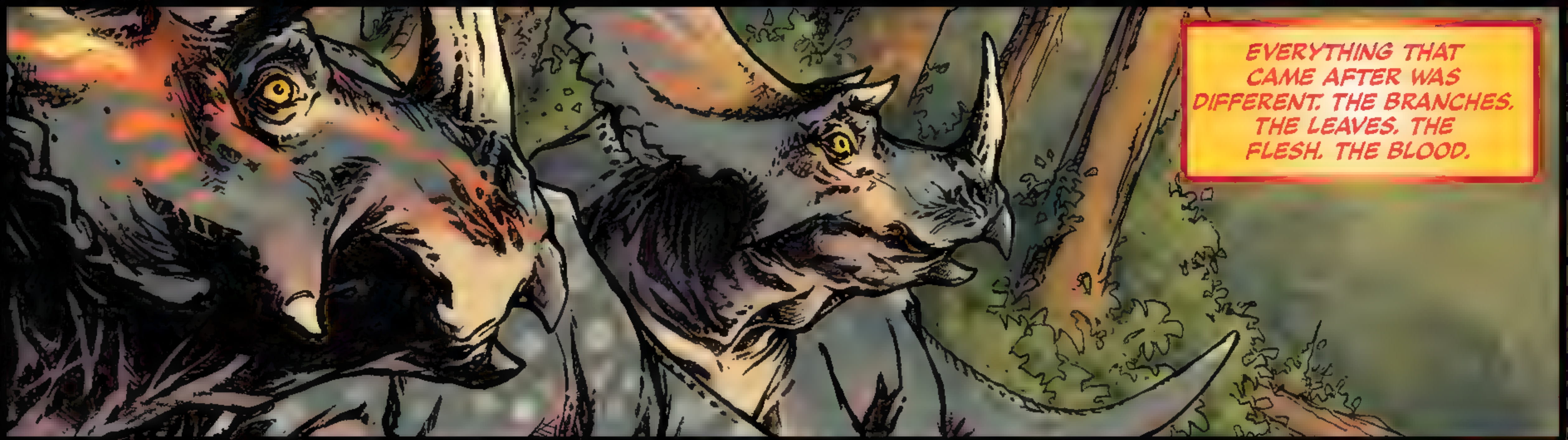
THEN.

MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO,  
LIFE SPREAD ACROSS THE  
SURFACE SAME AS NOW.  
BUT, IT DIDN'T START THERE.  
IT STARTED BEFORE.



IT STARTED  
BENEATH.

IN OUR WORLD.  
IN THE CORE.



EVERYTHING THAT  
CAME AFTER WAS  
DIFFERENT. THE BRANCHES.  
THE LEAVES. THE  
FLESH. THE BLOOD.



AND WHILE IT  
WAS ALLOWED  
TO SPREAD FOR A  
TIME, EVENTUALLY  
IT HAD TO BE  
DEALT WITH.



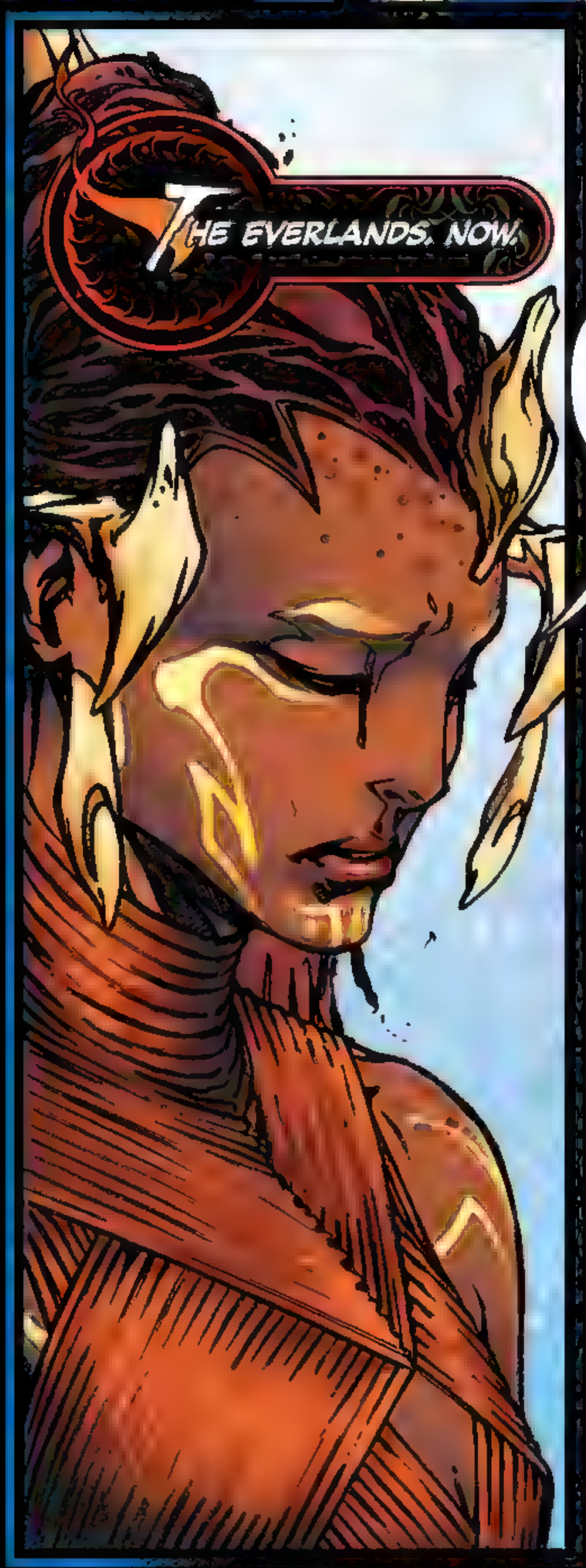
OUR WORLD  
NEEDED TO BE  
CLEANSED.



PURIFIED.







THE EVERLANDS. NOW.

I AM AFRAID THAT TIME HAS COME AGAIN.

AND, I AM TO BE YOUR UNDOING.

YIKES.

SERIOUSLY. YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO KILL THE MOOD, ANIZAN.

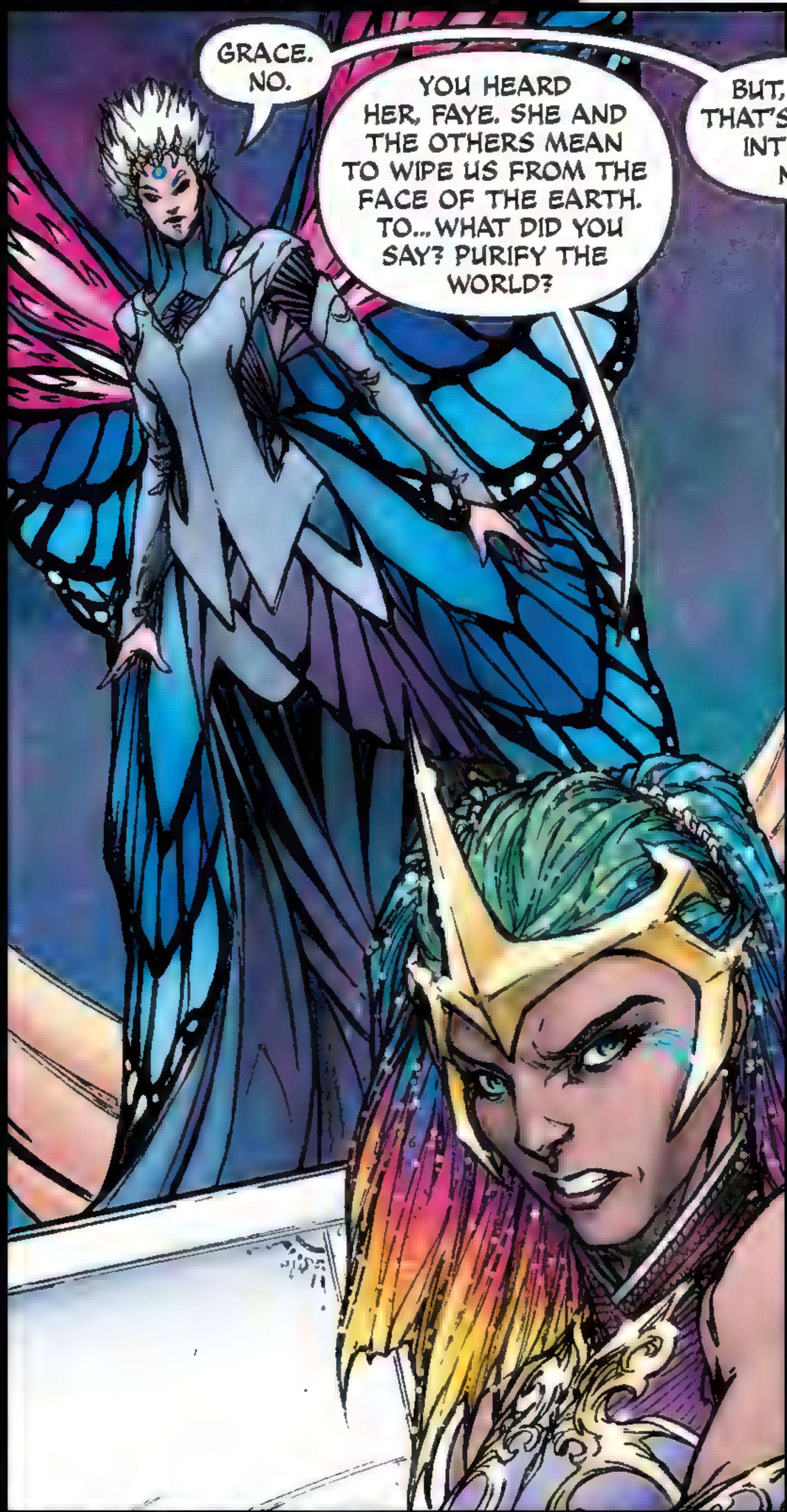
SOUNDS LIKE THAT'S NOT ALL SHE PLANS TO KILL.

ENOUGH!

WE GRANT YOU ENTRANCE INTO OUR SACRED REALM AND YOU THREATEN US?





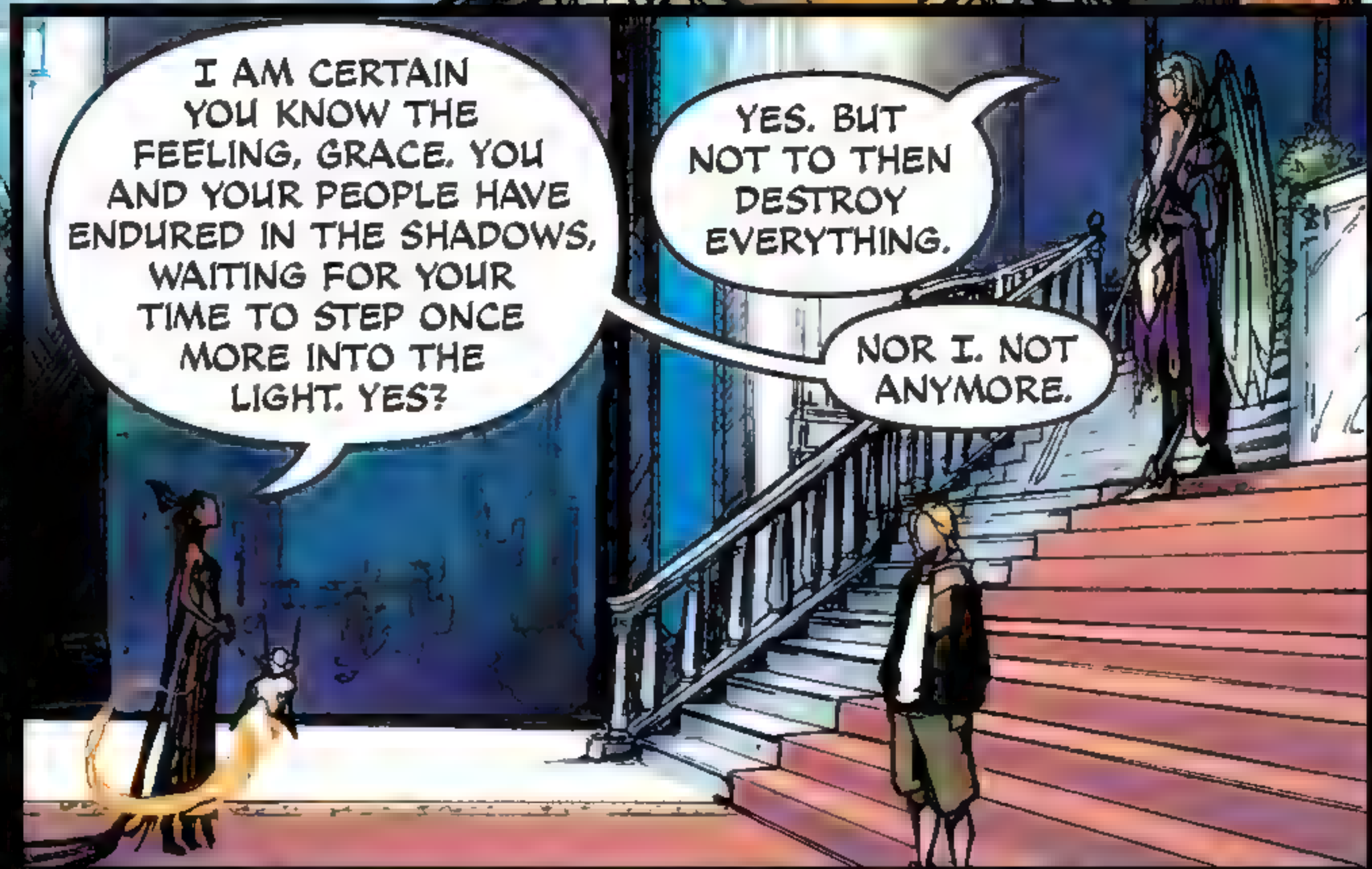


GRACE.  
NO.

YOU HEARD  
HER, FAYE. SHE AND  
THE OTHERS MEAN  
TO WIPE US FROM THE  
FACE OF THE EARTH.  
TO... WHAT DID YOU  
SAY? PURIFY THE  
WORLD?

BUT, SURELY  
THAT'S NOT HER  
INTENTION,  
NOW.

RIGHT?



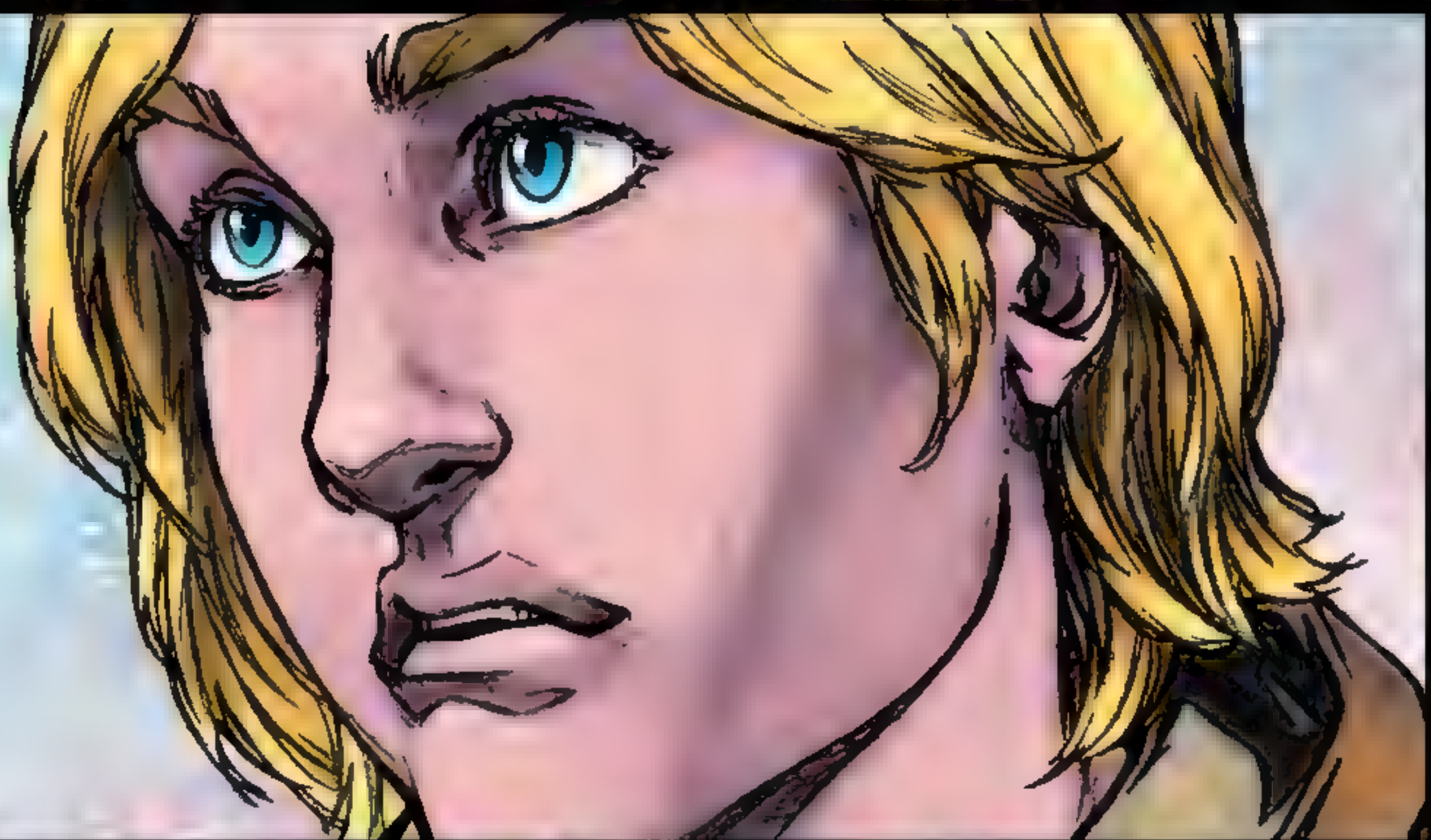
I AM CERTAIN  
YOU KNOW THE  
FEELING, GRACE. YOU  
AND YOUR PEOPLE HAVE  
ENDURED IN THE SHADOWS,  
WAITING FOR YOUR  
TIME TO STEP ONCE  
MORE INTO THE  
LIGHT. YES?

YES. BUT  
NOT TO THEN  
DESTROY  
EVERYTHING.

NOR I. NOT  
ANYMORE.



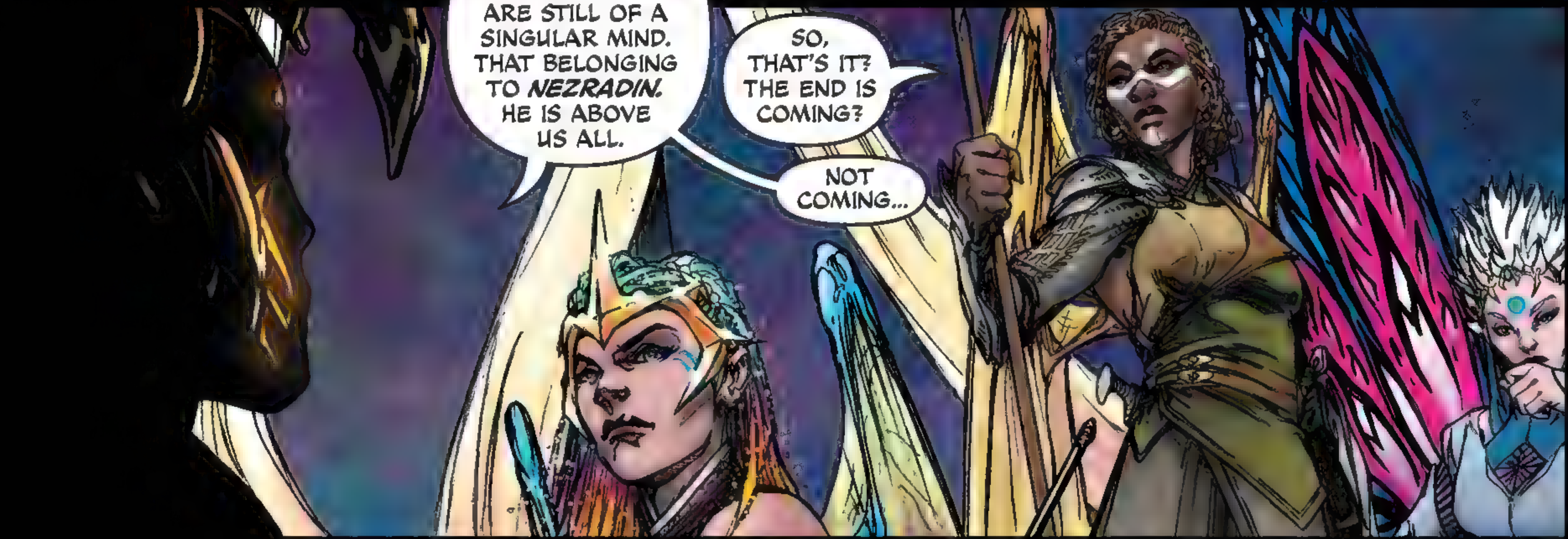
THAT'S GOOD  
TO HEAR. I'M ALL  
FOR YOUR CHANGE OF  
HEART, ANIZAN, BUT THAT'S  
NOT THE END OF IT, IS IT?  
SOMETHING TELLS ME THE  
OTHERS FROM THE CORE  
AREN'T AS ENAMORED  
WITH OUR LITTLE  
WORLD UP HERE.



NO. I AM  
AFRAID *REILAN*  
AND THE OTHERS  
ARE STILL OF A  
SINGULAR MIND.  
THAT BELONGING  
TO *NEZRADIN*.  
HE IS ABOVE  
US ALL.

SO,  
THAT'S IT?  
THE END IS  
COMING?

NOT  
COMING...



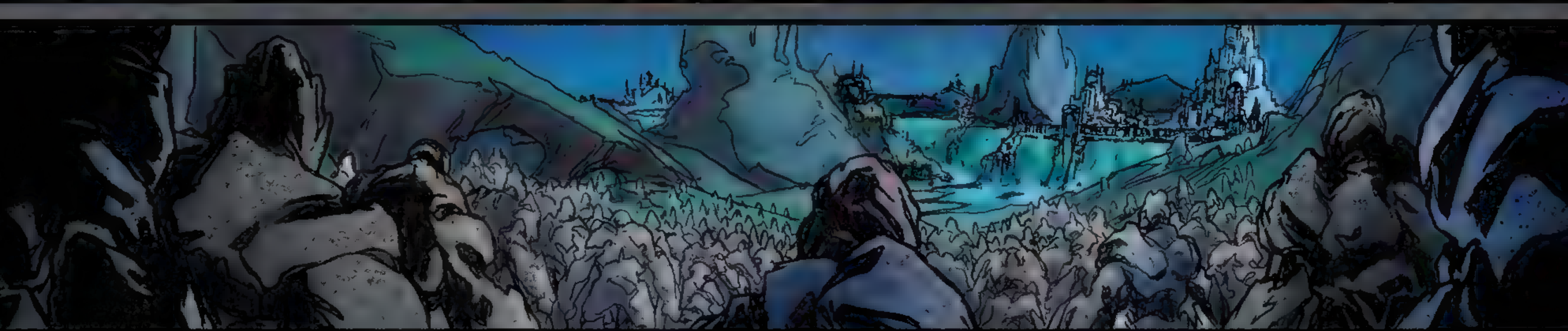
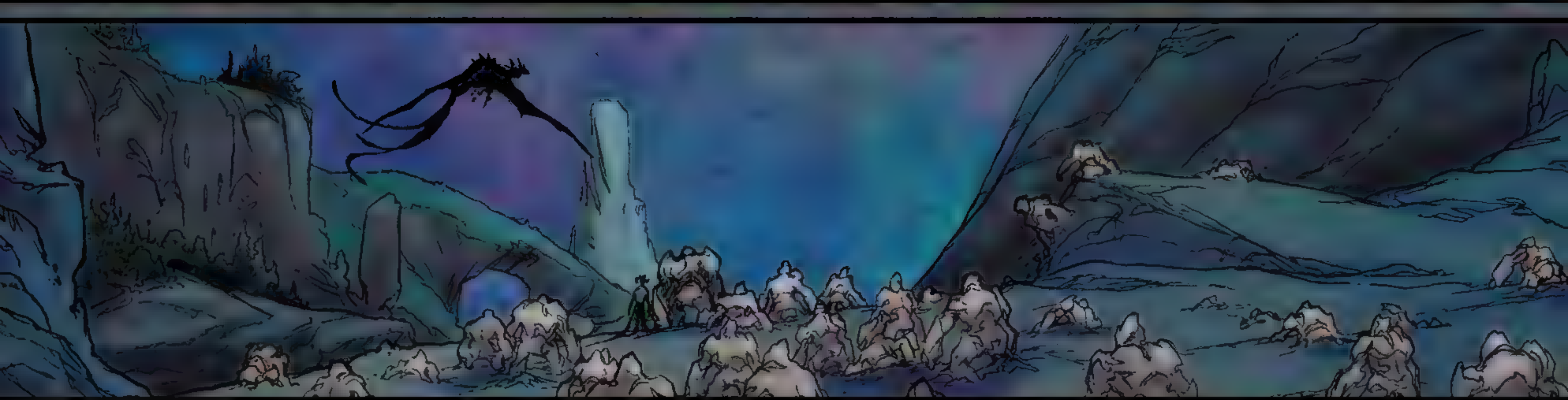
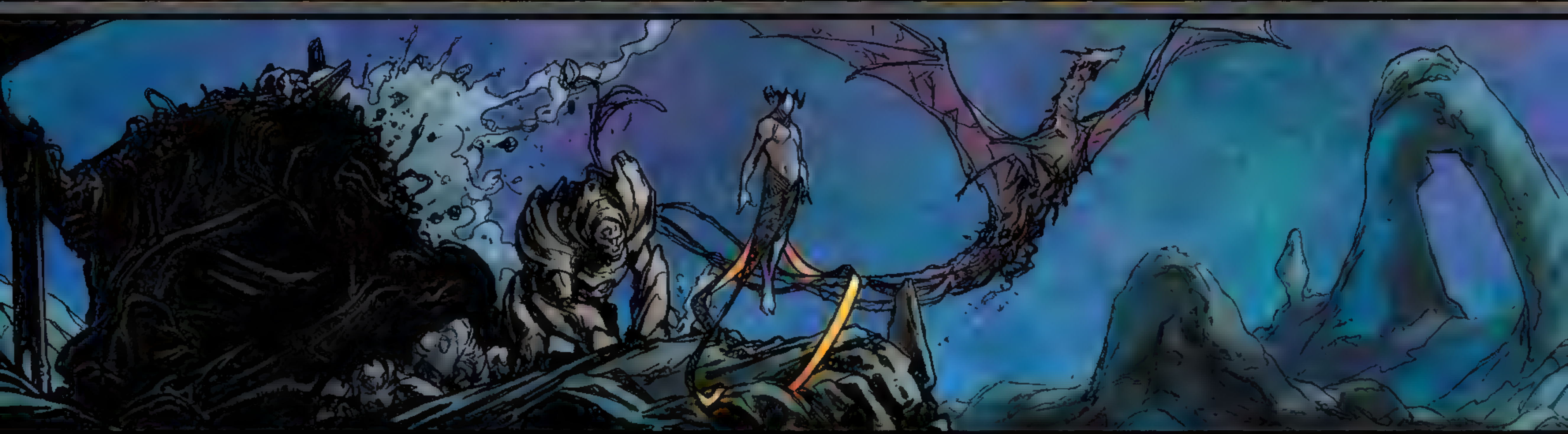
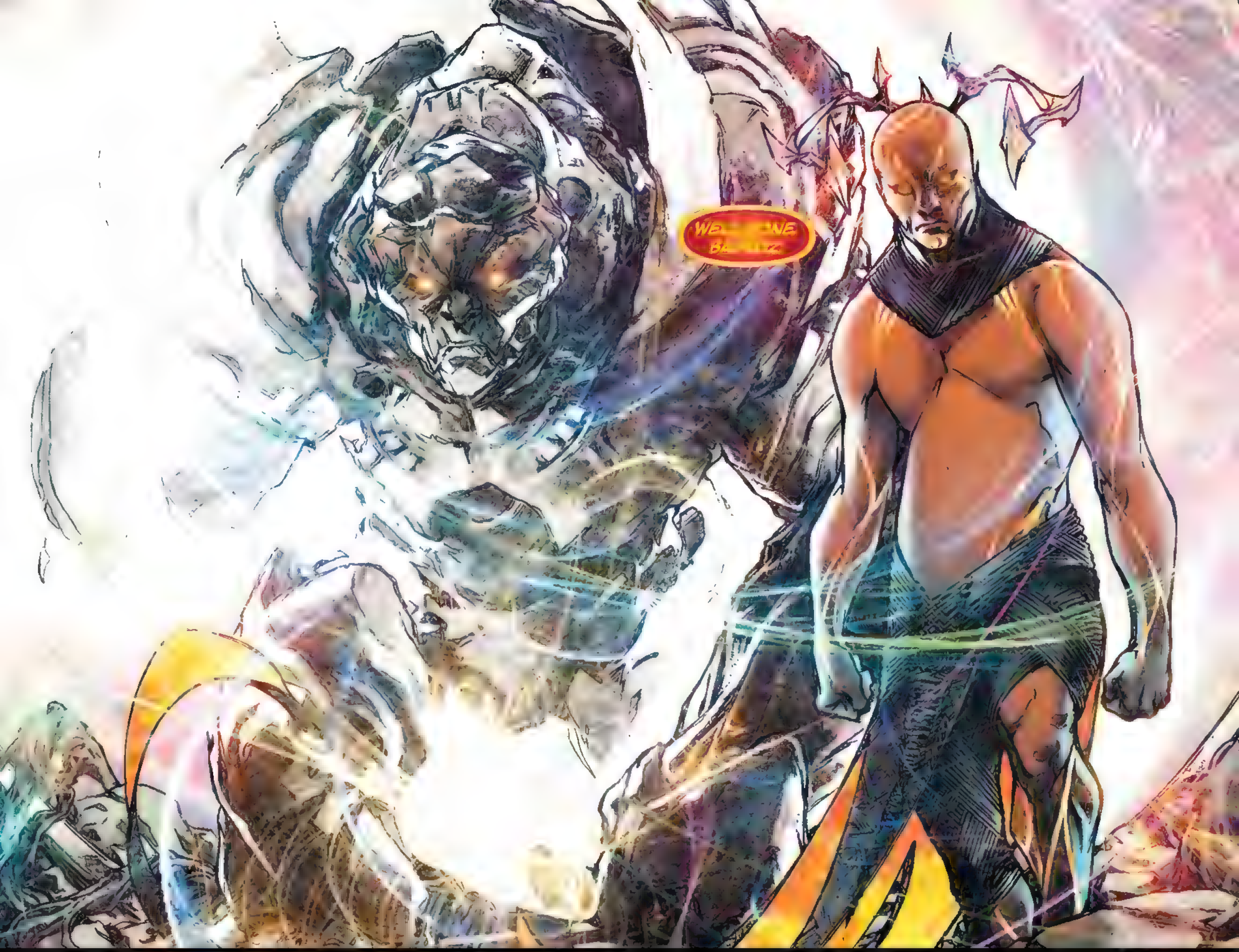


A wide comic book panel showing a group of wizards in a magical, rocky landscape. A wizard in a red robe on the left says, "...IT'S ALREADY HERE." The scene is filled with vibrant, ethereal light effects in shades of purple, blue, and green, emanating from various points in the environment. The wizards are dressed in traditional robes and pointed hats. The background features jagged rock formations and a dark, stormy sky with a dragon-like creature flying in the distance. The overall style is dynamic and colorful, typical of modern comic book art.

[illegible]

A large, grotesque, purple-skinned creature with multiple heads and sharp teeth, resembling a giant insect or alien monster, dominates the center of the page. It is surrounded by smaller, similar creatures and debris. The background is a dark, cloudy sky with a bright light source on the right.







WE'RE A LONG WAY FROM SAN FRANCISCO, BUT YOU'D NEVER KNOW IT LOOKING AT THEM. I USED TO THINK IT WAS JUST BENOIST AND P.J. NOT TAKING ANYTHING SERIOUSLY. ACTING LIKE THIS WAS ALL JUST A GAME.

I'M TELLING YOU, B. YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE ONE OF THESE YOURSELF.

I'M GOOD. I GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE, SO TO SPEAK.

STILL, IT'S FUN TO JUST SMASH STUFF SOMETIMES.

BUT I QUICKLY LEARNED THAT IT WAS ACTUALLY JUST THEIR WAY OF DEALING WITH REALITY.

CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT.

I STOPPED TRYING TO GET THEM TO STAY BEHIND DURING TIMES LIKE THESE. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A LOSING BATTLE FOR ME. HARD TO SAY NO. ESPECIALLY TO SONIA.

EVERYTHING IN WORKING ORDER?

DON'T LET BENOIST HEAR YOU ASK THAT. HE'D GET OFFENDED.

BETTER THAN LETTING YOU GO INTO SOMETHING WITHOUT PROTECTION.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE, MAL?

BESIDES, I GOT YOU TOO, RIGHT?

RIGHT.

AS THEY WOULD ALWAYS SAY. WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER. AND, I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.





I AM AMAZED BY HOW DIFFERENT SILENCE CAN FEEL. I SUPPOSE IT IS OUR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT IS TO COME THAT COLORS THE MOOD.

I DON'T KNOW WHY. THE SILENCE NEVER LASTS. THERE IS ALWAYS ANOTHER BATTLE TO FIGHT. ANOTHER WAR TO COME.

I IMAGINE THE DREAD COMES FROM WONDERING WHETHER OR NOT WE WILL STILL BE STANDING THE NEXT TIME IT IS QUIET ONCE MORE.

LISTENING TO ANIZAN TELL HER STORY, IT'S HARD NOT TO SEE EVERYTHING AROUND US WITH DISTRUST. OUR ENTIRE EXISTENCE HAS BEEN BUILT UPON THE BELIEF THAT OUR MAGIC WAS THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE IN THE WORLD. THE LIGHT AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL.

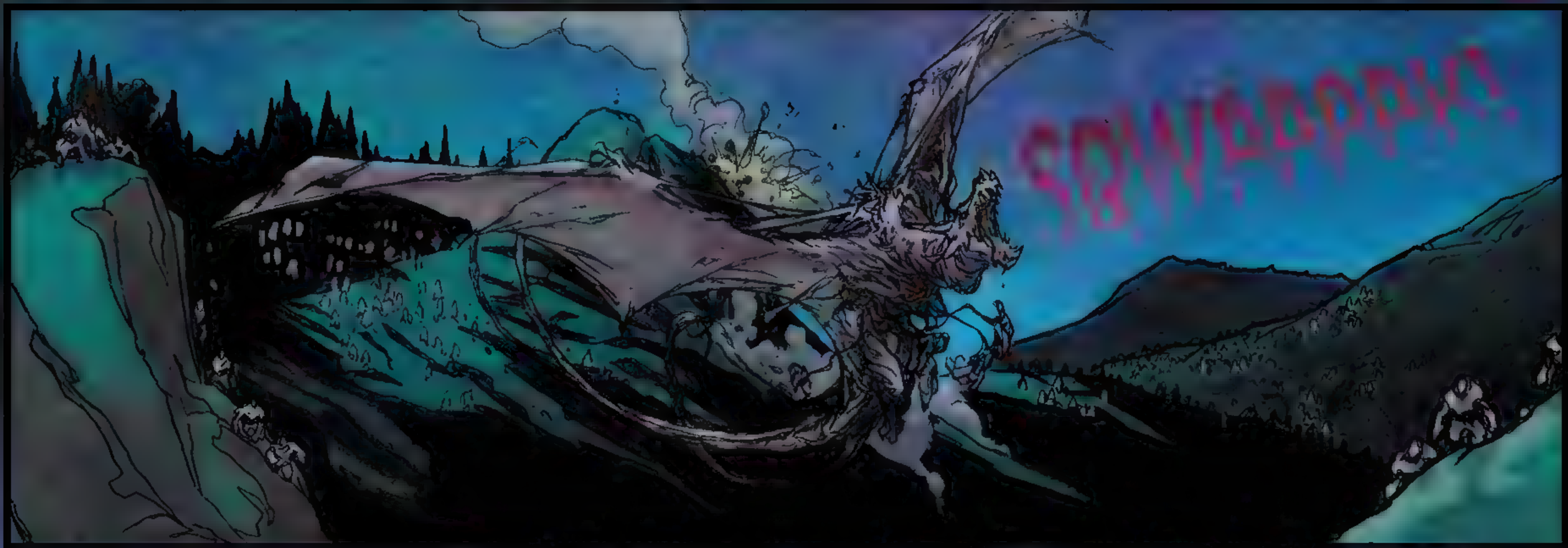
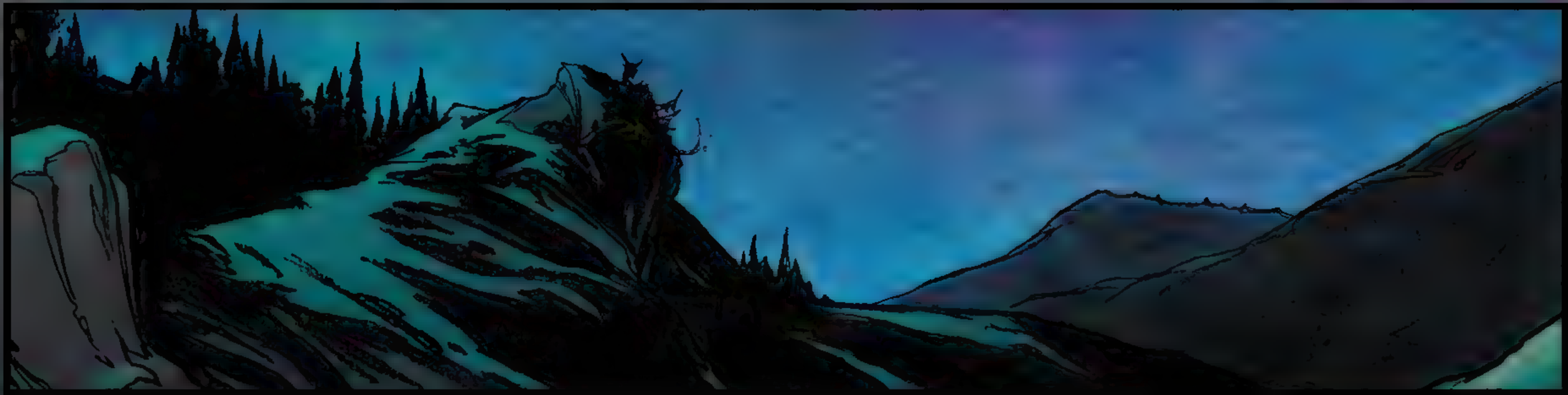
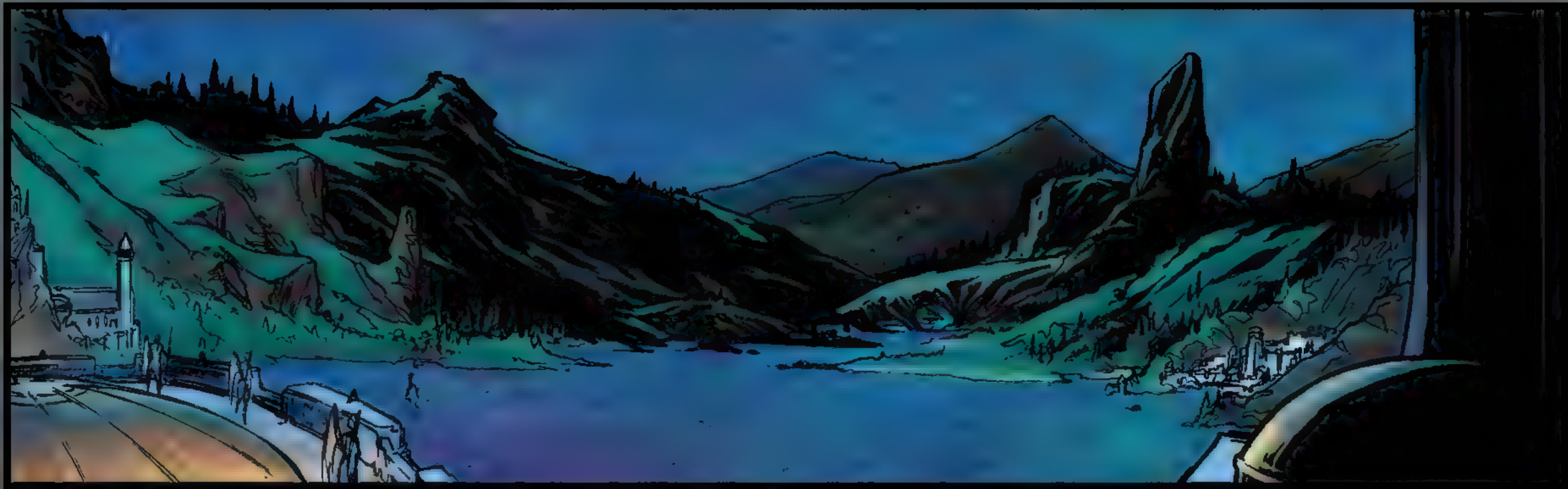
BUT NOW, IT SEEMS THE WORLD ITSELF-- THOSE FROM ITS CORE-- ARE EVEN MORE POWERFUL. MORE EXCEPTIONAL.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE DISCONNECTED. THE MAGIC COULD BE IN EVERYTHING--

--JUST AS WE THOUGHT. IN US. IN THE WORLD. IN ANIZAN AND HER KIND, TOO.

REGARDLESS, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOUR MAGIC HAS NEVER BEEN WHAT MAKES YOU EXCEPTIONAL, GRACE. IT'S YOUR HEART.









WHICH IS AS FAR AS THEY WILL GET.

IT LOOKS LIKE MAELSTORM'S BEEN INFECTED. THEY ALL HAVE.

BE NICE IF ANIZAN HAD GIVEN US THE LOWDOWN ON THESE FOOLS.

TRIAL AND ERROR. P.J. FIND THE SWEET SPOT.

I'LL TRY. IT'S BEEN ALL DEFENSE FOR ME SO FAR. THEY'RE BIG, BUT THEY'RE FAST.

NICE, SONIA! OKAY, YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE ON MY TEAM THE NEXT TIME WE GAME.

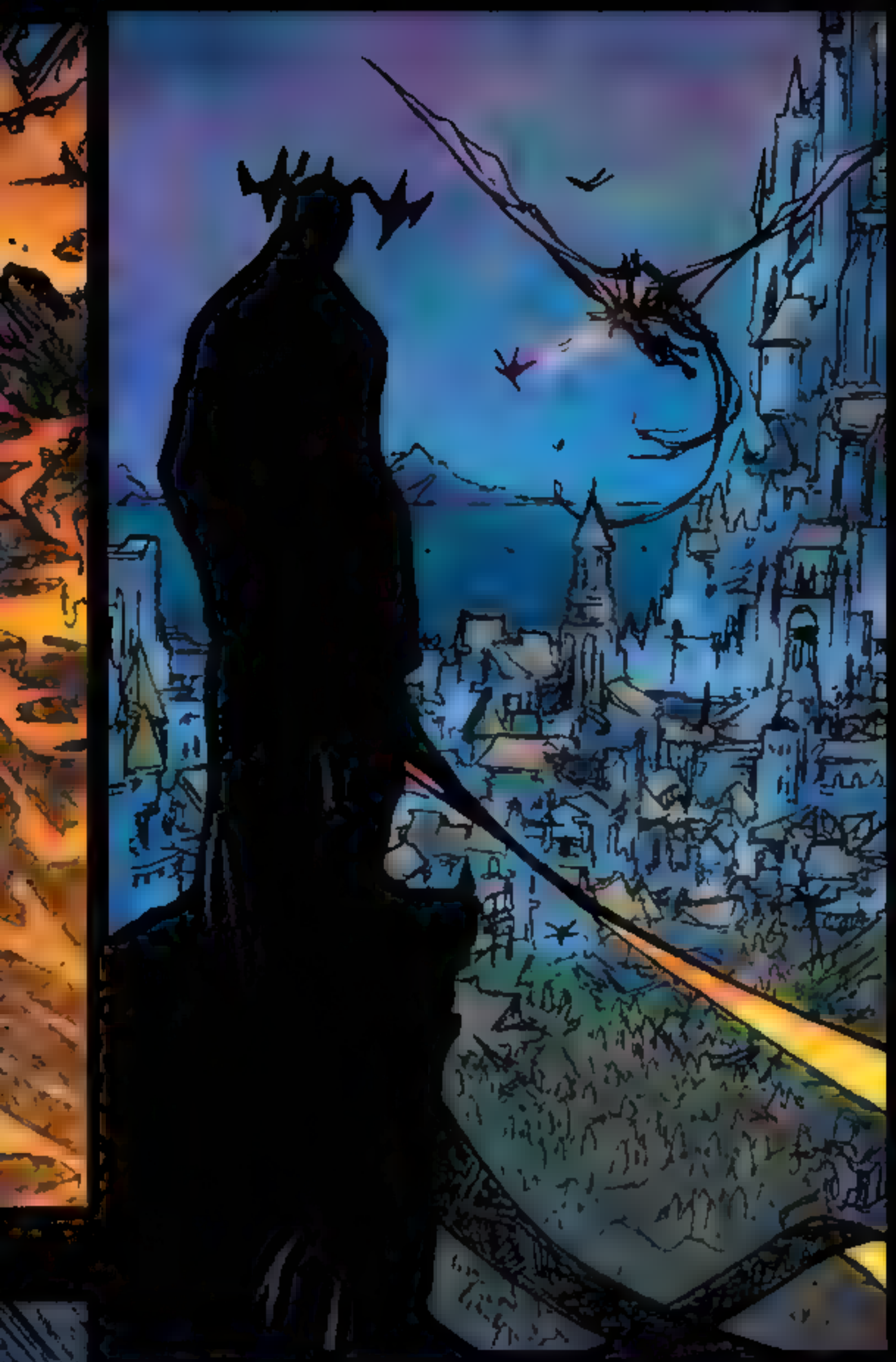
WOW. I FEEL SO SPECIAL.

ARE THEY STILL ALIVE? STILL SUFFERING?

IS THERE ANY WAY TO SAVE THEM, ANIZAN?

ANIZAN?!?  
SHE'S GONE.





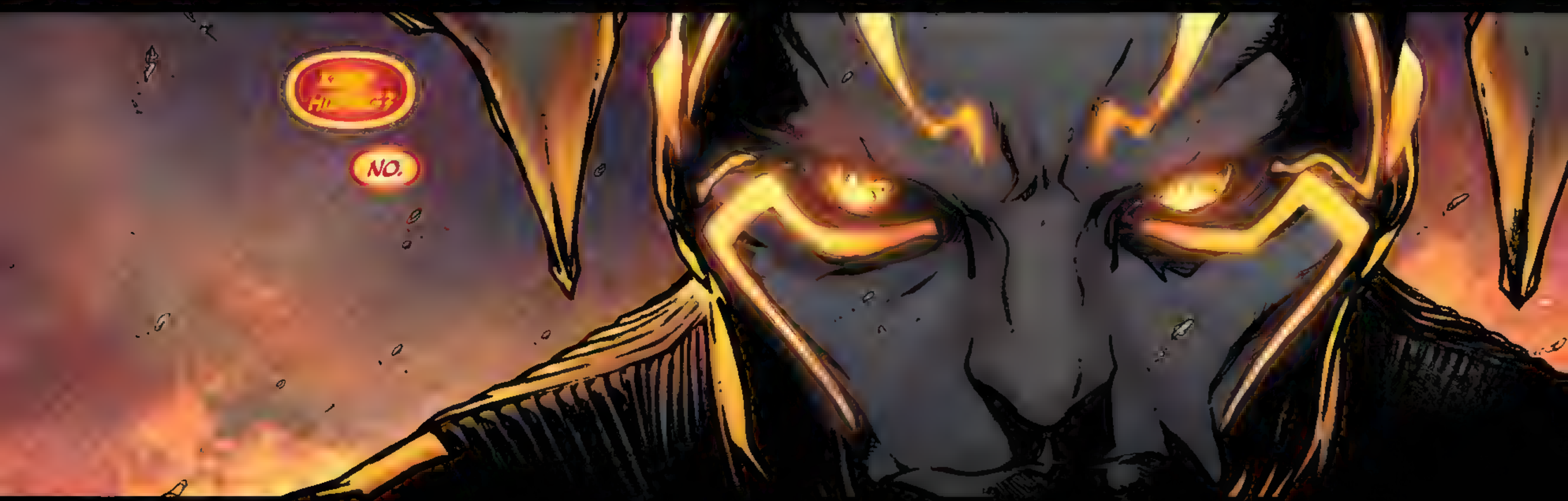
DEVELOP  
THE WORLD  
TO LET THE ROZ  
AND THE PLAY  
A ROLE IN THEM  
TO START  
THEIR OWN  
PAGES

FOR ME  
IT'S SO  
THINGS



EVEN THIS  
SOMEONE UNIQUE  
CORNER OF THE WORLD  
DOESN'T HAVE  
ATTENTION NOT WHEN  
THERE IS SO MUCH  
MORE TO DO

PLEASE  
ANTHONY US  
GET ON WITH IT OR  
WE'LL KEEP  
REMOVING



IS  
HIM?

NO.





I AM  
HERE.

FINALLY  
DOES THE MEAN  
YOUR LITTLE  
CHARADE  
IS OVER?

IT IS NO  
CHARADE, REILAN.  
LOOK AROUND AT  
WHAT HAS GROWN.  
I DO NOT SEE WHY  
WE MUST ERADICATE  
EVERYTHING THAT HAS  
BECOME OF THE  
WORLD BEYOND  
THE CORE.



FOR THE  
SINCE LET  
THAT IS  
NO WAY BEYOND  
THE CORE IT IS  
AS

ALL IN ONE  
IT IS NOT DIFFERENT  
THEY ARE PART OF US  
PART OF THE CORE  
EVERYTHING IS GRASS,  
EVERYTHING IS DEAD WE  
ARE WORKING TO BRING  
THEM TO LIFE MOST  
TRUE TO THEIR  
NATURE



YOU CANNOT  
STOP THE ANIZAN.  
WE BOTH KNOW THAT  
BUT IF SOMEHOW  
FEEL A CONNECTION  
WITH THEIR NATURES,  
YOU CAN KILL IN LESS  
PAINFUL THAN THEIR  
SUFFERING

SMALL  
TALK MY  
HORN



WELL  
LATELY  
BEING

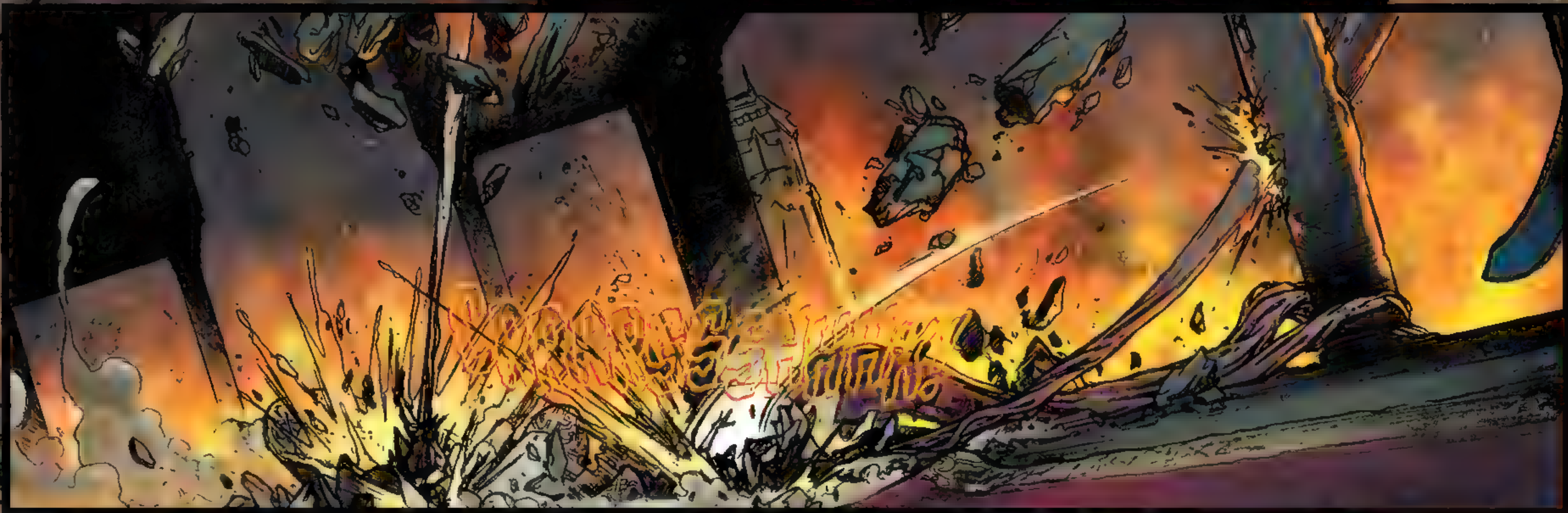






GRACE,  
DON'T LET  
IT TAKE  
HOLD OF  
YOU.

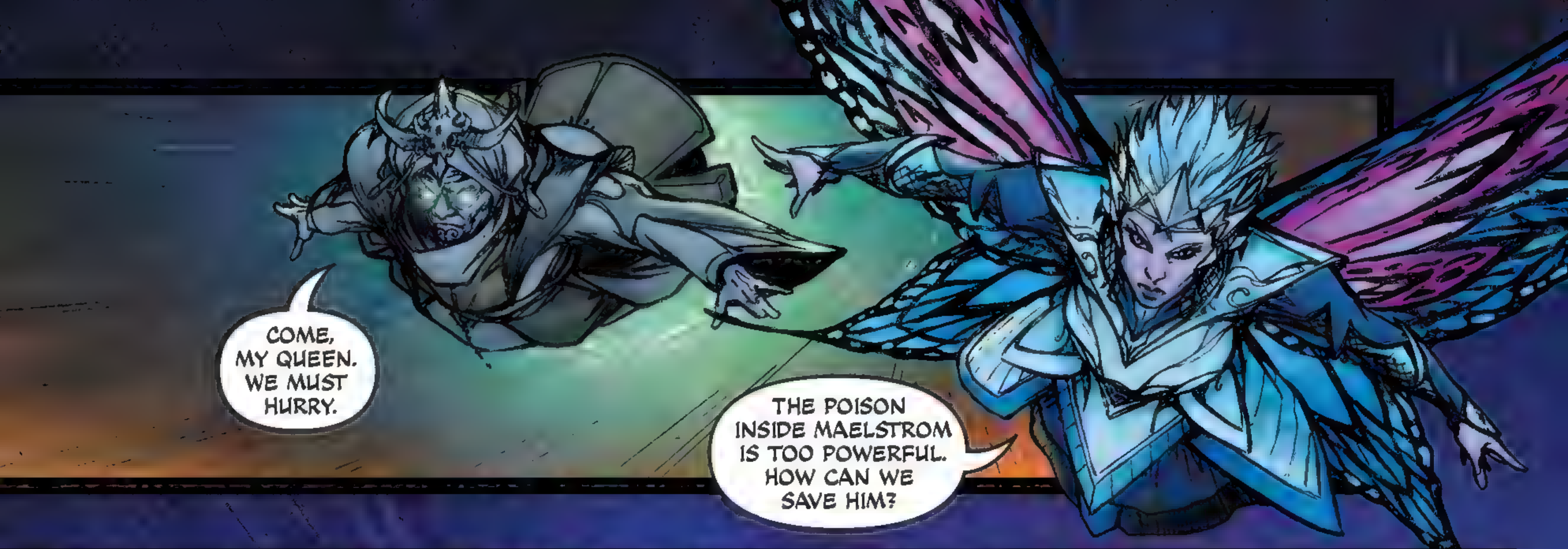
TOO--  
NNNNH--  
LATE.



**RAAAWWGGG!**

ON YOUR  
FEET, GRACE. IF  
WE ARE TO DIE,  
WE WILL DIE  
STANDING.





COME,  
MY QUEEN.  
WE MUST  
HURRY.

THE POISON  
INSIDE MAELSTROM  
IS TOO POWERFUL.  
HOW CAN WE  
SAVE HIM?



WE  
CANNOT.  
WE MUST  
DESTROY  
HIM.

BUT, IT  
WILL TAKE BOTH  
OF US. ALL THE  
MAGIC WE HAVE  
AND MORE.

THAT'S IT,  
FAYE! KEEP  
CHANNELING!  
YOU MUST! FOR  
GRACE! FOR  
MIYA!



FOR THE  
EVERLANDS!

AHHHHH!!



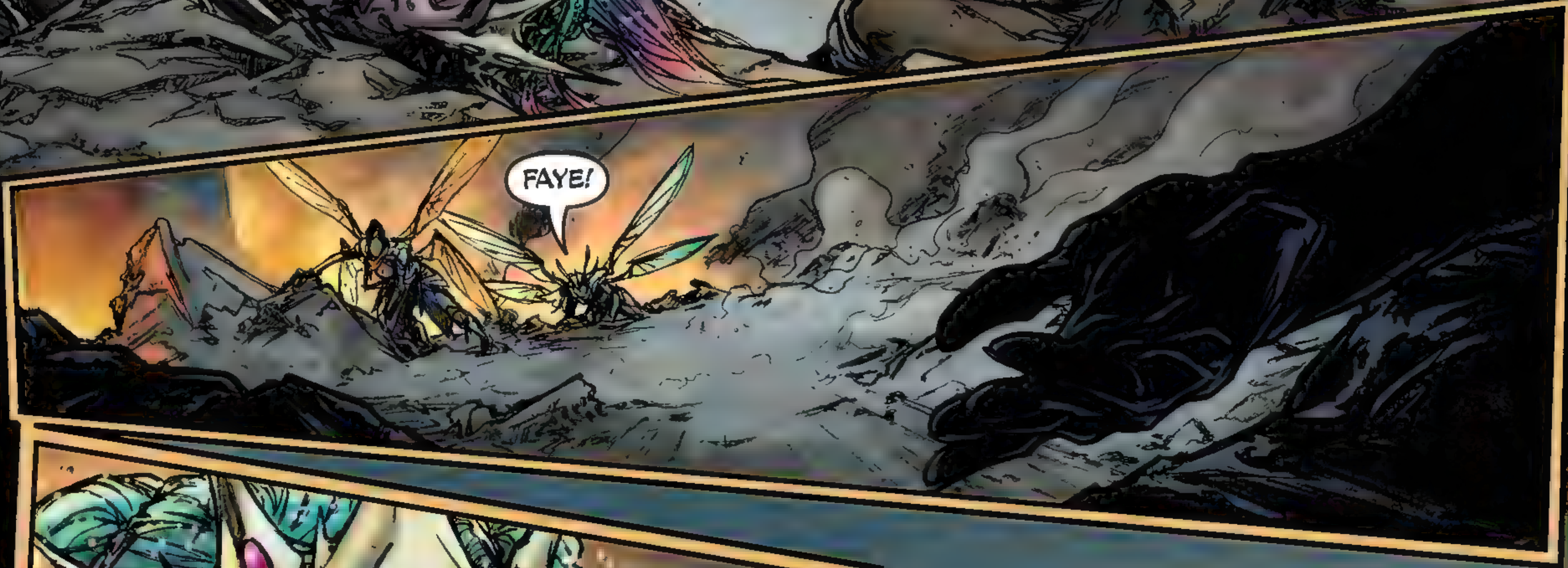
THOOOOOOOM!





NNNN...  
WHAT WAS  
THAT?

NEVER  
FELT SUCH  
POWER.



FAYE!



PLEASE.  
NO...

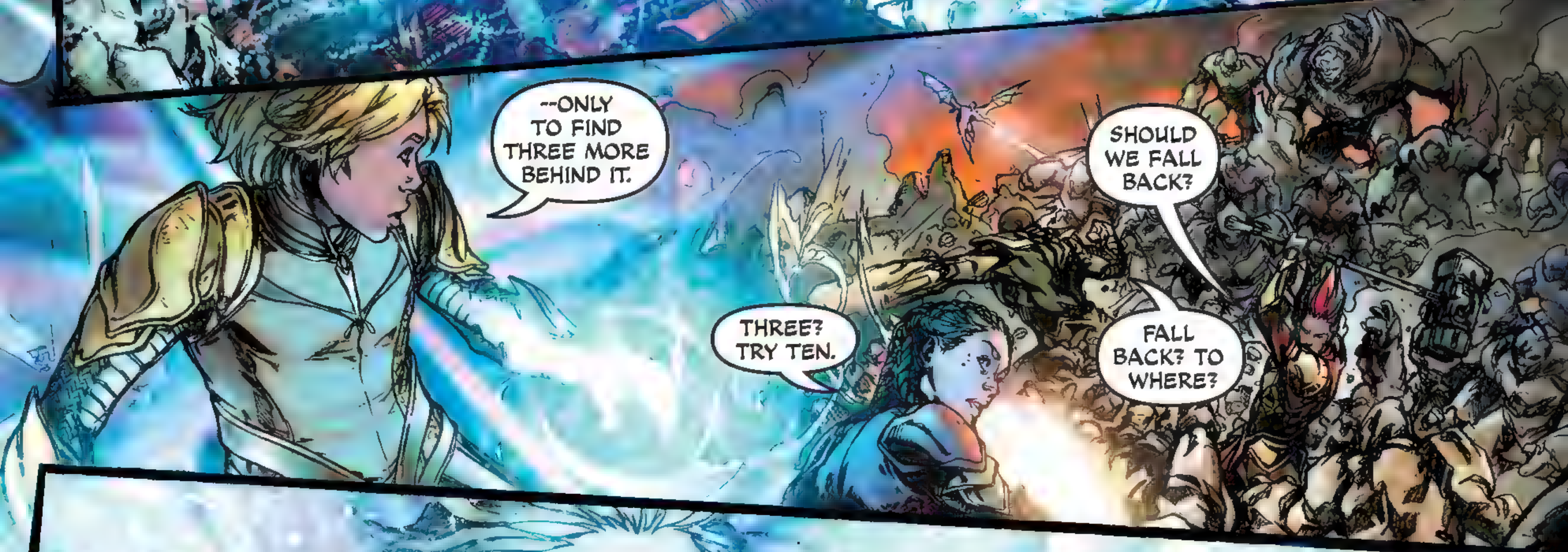


NOT  
YOU...





THERE'S NO END TO THEM. TAKE ONE OUT--



--ONLY TO FIND THREE MORE BEHIND IT.

SHOULD WE FALL BACK?

THREE? TRY TEN.

FALL BACK? TO WHERE?



MAYBE, WE NEED TO FOCUS ON WHERE IT ALL STARTED.



MAYBE, IT'S LIKE SOME VAMPIRE THING. STOP THE FIRST ONE AND THE REST WILL FALL.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

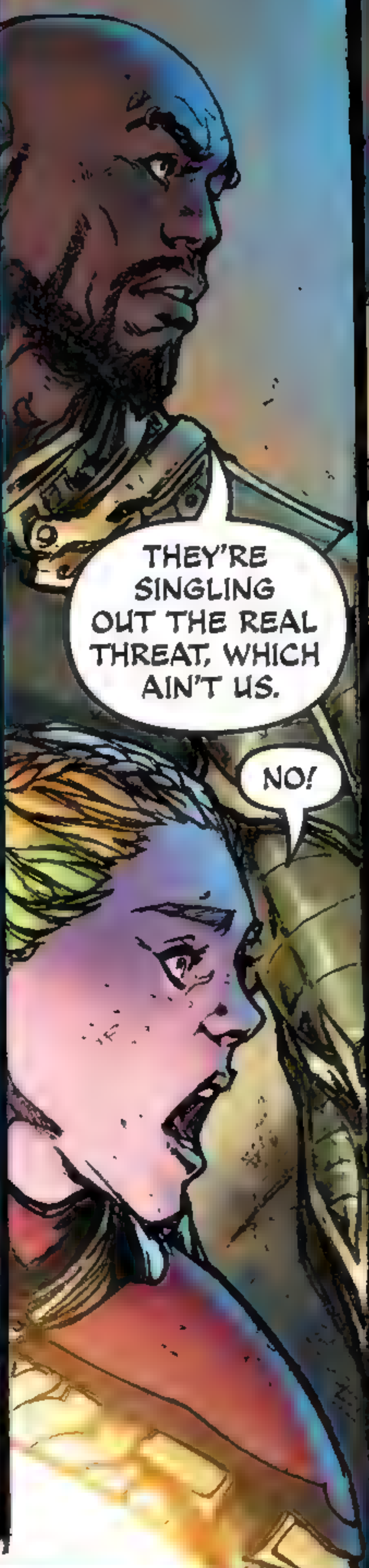
HEY! REMEMBER ME?





IT'S WORKING.  
THEY'RE  
RETREATING.

NOT  
EXACTLY.

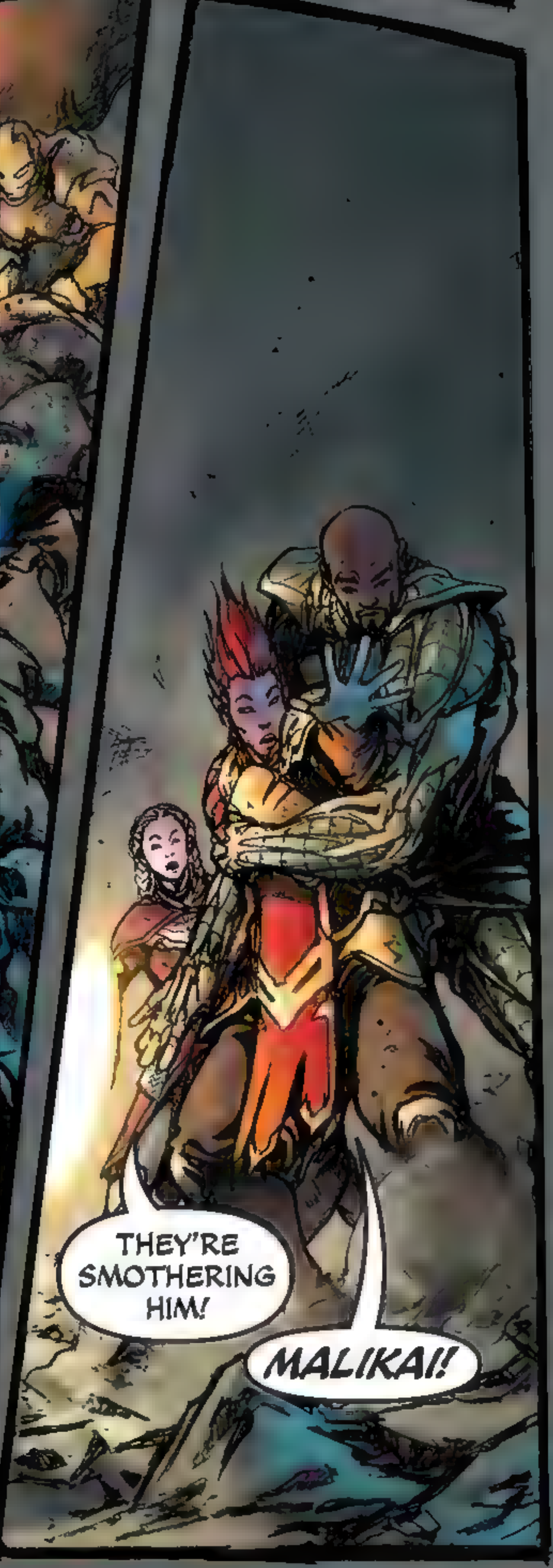


THEY'RE  
SINGLING  
OUT THE REAL  
THREAT, WHICH  
AIN'T US.

NO!

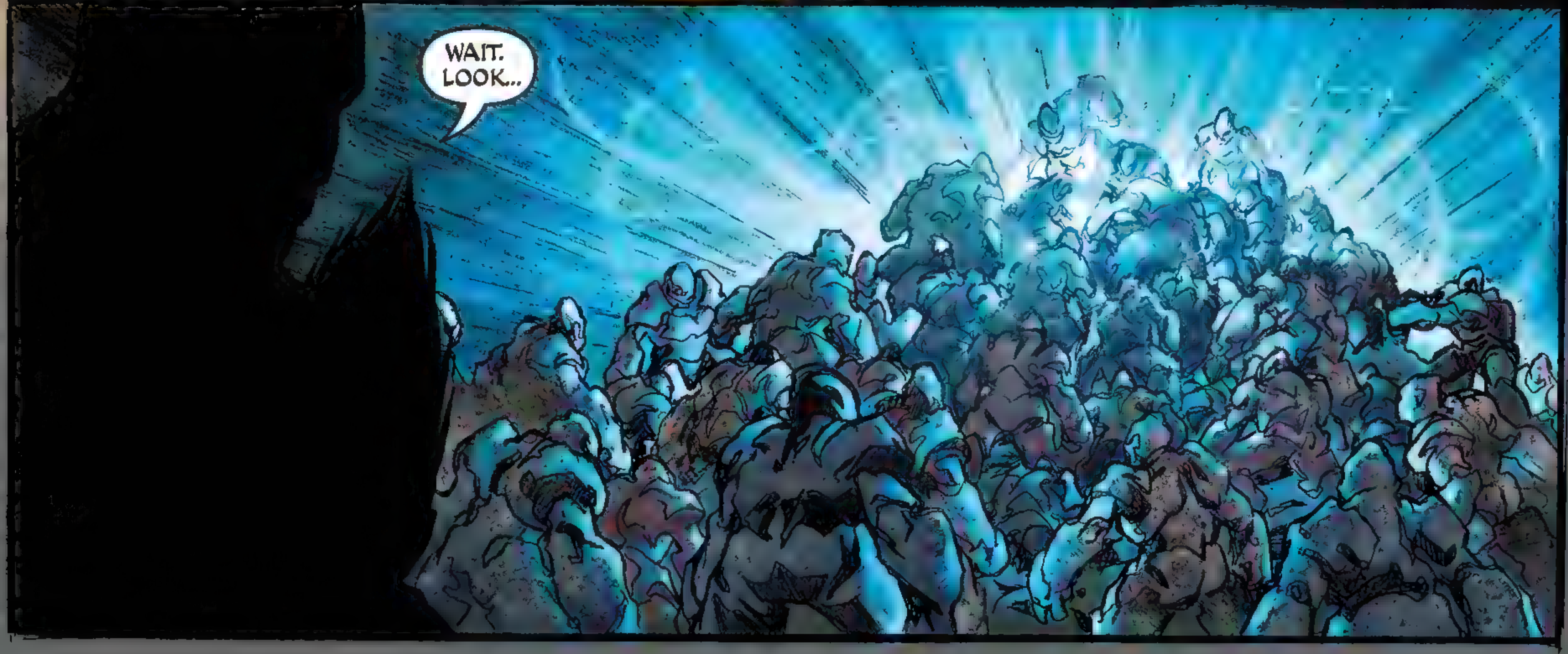


TH-THIS IS  
G-GETTING  
RIDICULOUS.



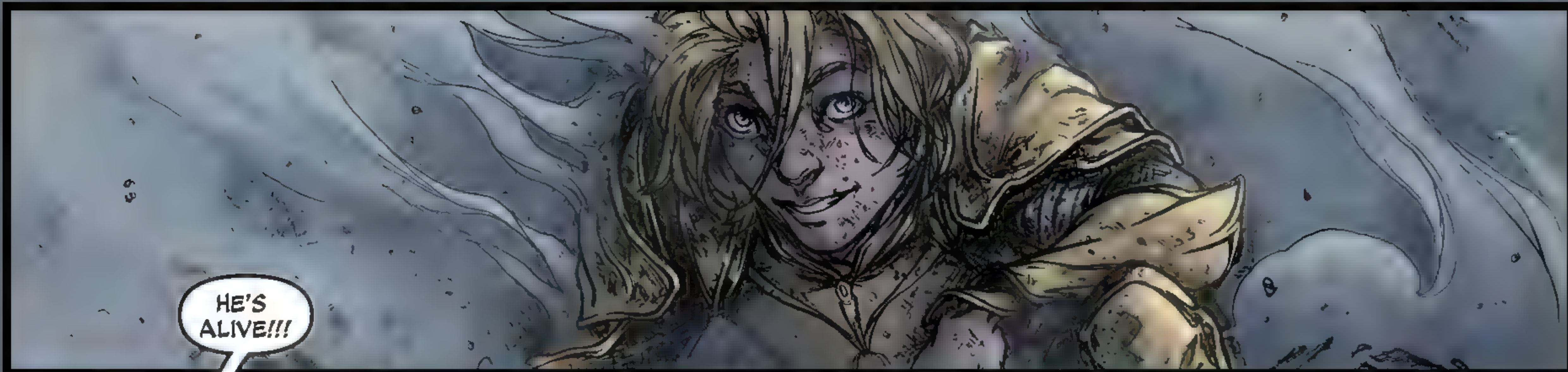
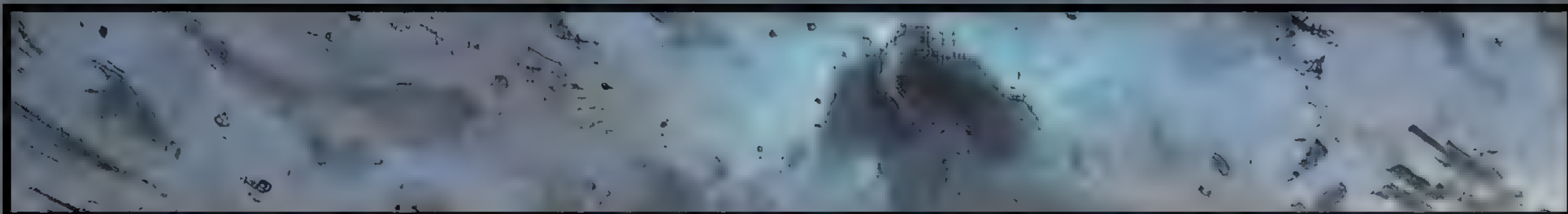
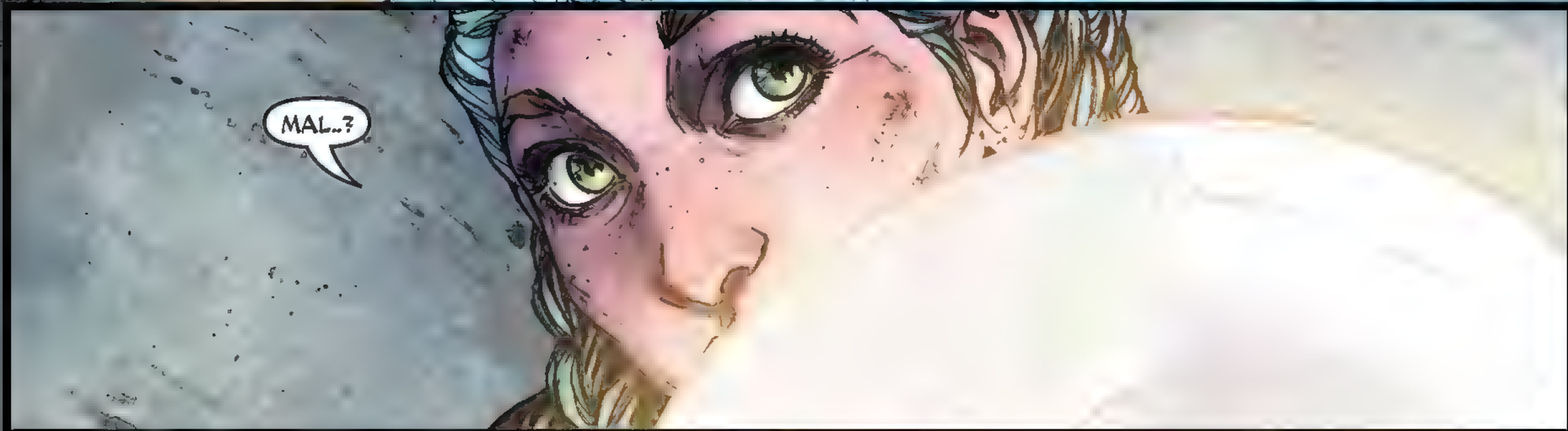
THEY'RE  
SMOTHERING  
HIM!

**MALIKAI!!**



WAIT.  
LOOK...









THEY ARE  
RESILIENT AS  
YOU CAN SEE.

THIS CHANGES  
NOTHING YOU  
KNOW, BUT AS  
MUCH WE DO.  
THE ONLY  
THING.



WE CAN  
NEVER BE  
LIES.



HOW A  
CHANGE OF  
HEARTS



IN A  
MANNER OF  
SPEAKING.





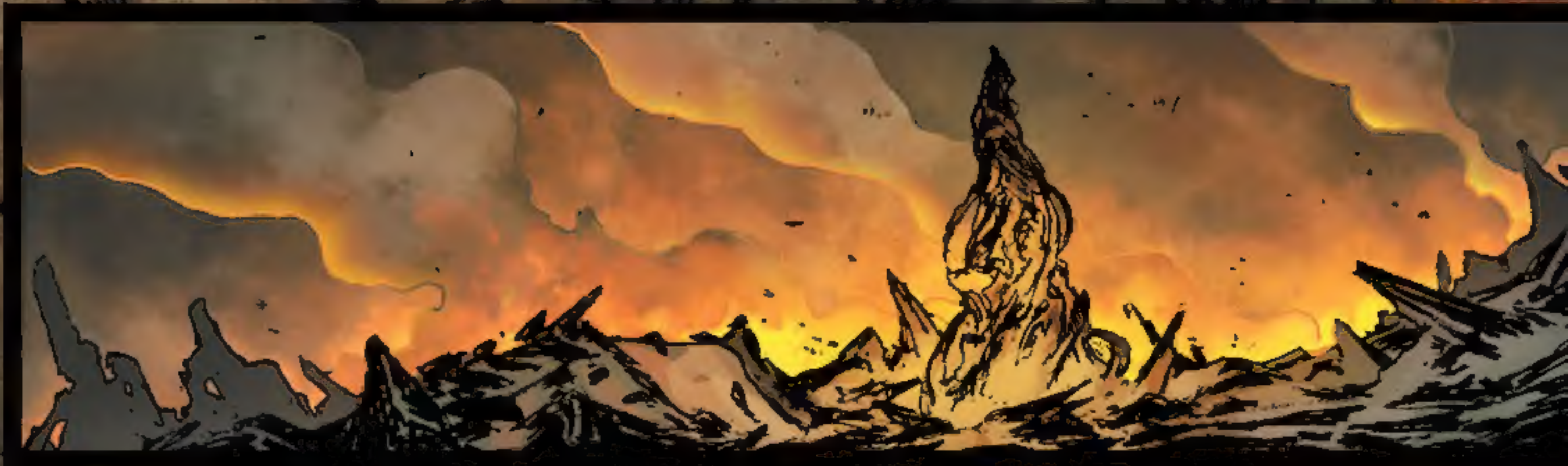
W-WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?

THIS IS  
THE ONLY  
WAY.

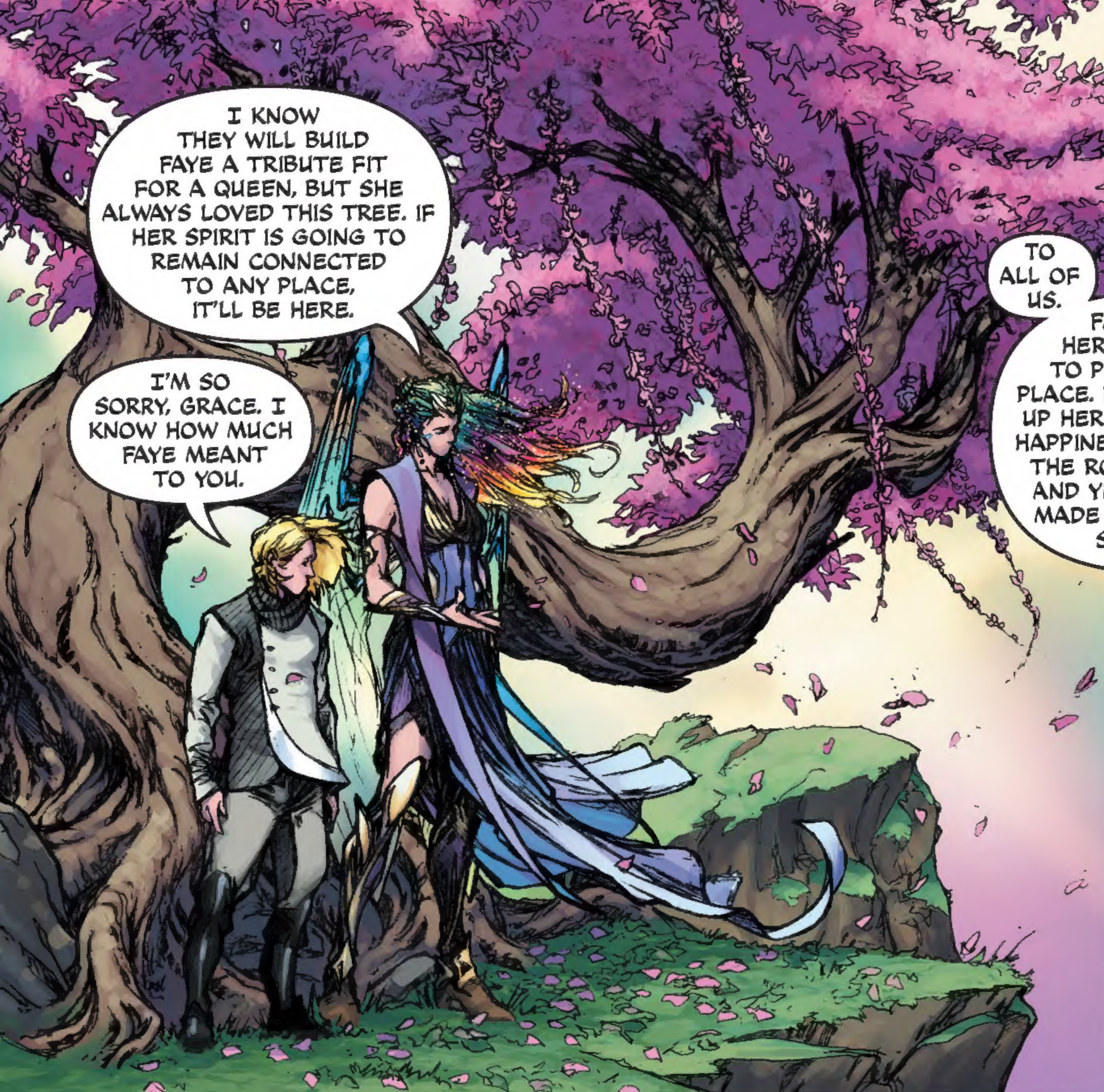
STOP  
DON'T DO THIS  
TO ME.

REMEMBER,  
THERE IS NO  
YOU OR ME OR  
THEM. THERE  
IS ONLY US.

THERE WILL  
ALWAYS BE  
ONLY US.







I KNOW THEY WILL BUILD FAYE A TRIBUTE FIT FOR A QUEEN, BUT SHE ALWAYS LOVED THIS TREE. IF HER SPIRIT IS GOING TO REMAIN CONNECTED TO ANY PLACE, IT'LL BE HERE.

I'M SO SORRY, GRACE. I KNOW HOW MUCH FAYE MEANT TO YOU.

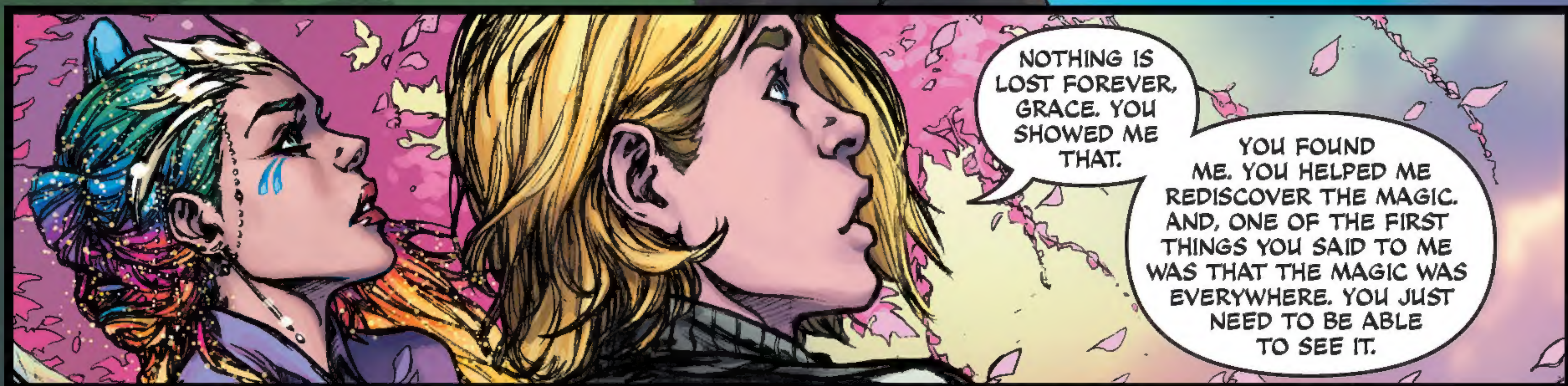
TO ALL OF US.

FAYE GAVE HER LIFE TWICE TO PROTECT THIS PLACE. FIRST, SHE GAVE UP HER OWN LOVE AND HAPPINESS TO TAKE ON THE ROLE AS QUEEN. AND YESTERDAY, SHE MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.

BUT, DID SHE SAVE IT?



THE EVERLANDS REMAINS AND ANANTIA WILL BE REBUILT. BUT, IT WILL NOT BE WHAT IT WAS BEFORE. IT'S LOST SOMETHING FOREVER.



NOTHING IS LOST FOREVER, GRACE. YOU SHOWED ME THAT.

YOU FOUND ME. YOU HELPED ME REDISCOVER THE MAGIC. AND, ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS YOU SAID TO ME WAS THAT THE MAGIC WAS EVERYWHERE. YOU JUST NEED TO BE ABLE TO SEE IT.



MAYBE, THAT'S THE PROBLEM, MALIKAI.

WHEN I LOOK AROUND, I CAN'T SEE IT.

NOT HERE. NOT ANYMORE.









... WELCOME HOME.

THE END OF SOULFIRE: THE CORE.

BUT THE STORY WILL CONTINUE IN THE NEXT EXCITING CHAPTER!